INSIDE: Robert Ludlum and the thriller trade

Maclean's

APRIL 9, 1984

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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SPECIAL REPORT

THE BABY MURDERS

Justin Cook was only 14 weeks old when he died in Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. The autopsy revealed that a massive overdose of digoxin had caused his death. Someone had murdered Justin—and had also ensured that six other children would never go home from the world-famous hospital. A chilling question remains: ***Who did it ?***



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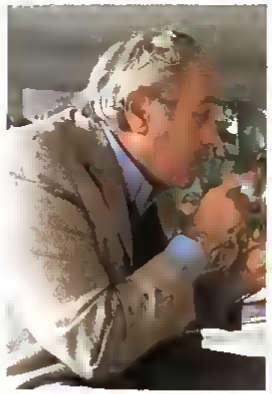
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APRIL 9, 1984 VOL. 97 NO. 15



The Tory revival

The Conservatives hold only one of 75 federal seats in Quebec, but not since 1958, when the party won 50 ridings, have the Tories felt so optimistic —*Page 14*



A novelist's realm of evil

Critics have been unkind, but thriller writer Robert Ludlum's best-selling novels have made him one of the world's richest and most widely read authors —*Page 50*

COVER

The baby murders

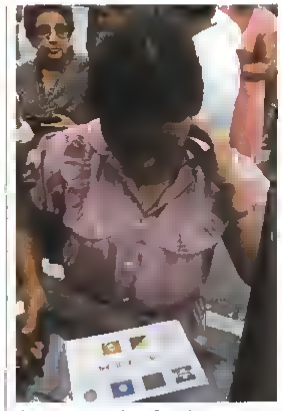
The babies had enough digoxin in their small bodies to kill several adults. But police, after three years of investigations, are no closer to discovering who was responsible for the killings. They hope that testimony by nurses Susan Nelles and Phyllis Trayner beginning this week before a royal commission may help to unravel the tragic mystery —*Page 36*

COVER PHOTO BY BRIAN WILLER, MACLEAN'S



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An uncertain election

In the confused aftermath of El Salvador's chaotic presidential elections, the nation's war-weary citizens faced another trek to the polls and more strife —*Page 20*



Gambling on a musical

Duddy, a brassy new show based on Mordecai Richler's best seller, opens this week at Edmonton's Citadel Theatre. Its backers are as ambitious as its hero —*Page 61*



The deadly affair

Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children opened in an 11-room house on Avenue Street in 1875. The rent was $320 a year. From such humble beginnings, "Sick Kids" became a trusting term of affection, not a slight. Now, sadly, a tragic series of mysterious baby deaths has besmirched an icon of the continent's medical establishment and scarred forever the life of at least one nurse because of the harsh glare of publicity. Are public inquiries fair? Should institutions and people be subjected to judgment before they can state their case? What role should the media play? Those troubling questions have existed as long as governments have launched public inquiries. By definition, judicial commissions are a last resort. And in the affair of the deaths at Sick Kids, public scrutiny is justified. In the first place, serious doubts remain about the efficiency of the hospital's internal procedures at the time that the babies died. As well, there are important questions about the efficiency of the police investigation. Senior Writer Arthur Johnson, who wrote this week's cover story, notes that "the two institutions had tremendous public trust and apparently made serious errors." Above all, there is the agony of parents and relatives whose children could never go home.



BRIAN WILLER/MACLEAN'S

Johnson: tremendous trust

There may never be any satisfactory answers. Departments Editor Thomas Hopkins, who oversaw the cover team, observed, "The worst possible result is that there will be no resolution: at least two nurses' lives will be devastated, the families will be left to agonize and the public will never know what happened." Whatever the outcome of the legal contest, there will be no real victors.

Kevin Doyle

Maclean's April 9, 1984

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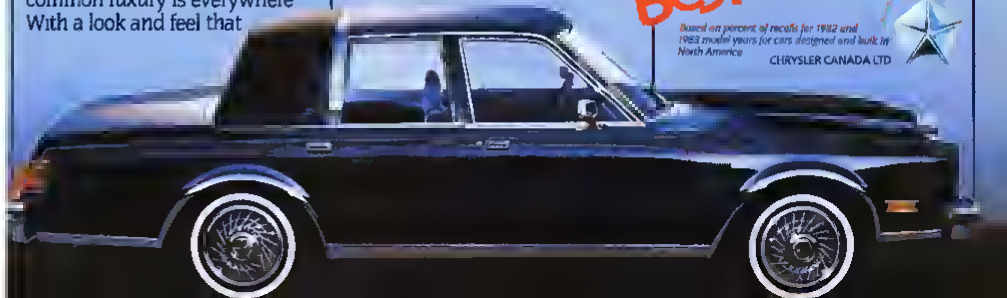
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LETTERS

Leary and drugs

Regarding your Q&A with Timothy Leary (*The case for intelligent drug use*, March 5) one of the biggest problems today is the widespread use of harmful drugs, especially by young people Those drugs are distributed by people solely to make money, without considering that they destroy people or at the very least reduce their capabilities *Maclean's* is widely read throughout Canada and hence has some influence on its readers You had an opportunity to do something constructive but ended up doing something destructive The article is presented in such a way as to lend credibility to this man and to the cause for which he unfortunately stands The article was not about some minor issue but rather about something very dangerous to us all You did not attack it; on the contrary you put Leary on a pedestal

—R B CAMERON JR.,
Halifax

Protesting the seal hunt

In your story on the fish boycott instigated by the International Fund for Animal Welfare to protest the seal hunt (*The antiseal boycott spreads*, Canada, March 19), you appear to endorse a recent claim made by federal Fisheries Minister Pierre De Bané that "the protest is over a false issue " The killing of "whitecoat" seal pups ended in 1982, according to De Bané But federal fisheries statistics reveal that of 55,914 harp seals killed in the 1983 hunt, 5,609 were whitecoats The real issue, however, is whether the other sentient creatures we share this planet with have any inherent right to lives of their own or whether they exist primarily to be exploited by man

—DUNCAN M TAYLOR,
University of Victoria Animal Rights Society, Victoria



Leary and wife, Barbara: credibility

MICHAEL J MCRAE

A restoration of rights

Regarding Maurice Wright's letter *Manitoba's divisions* (March 19) as one born in that province I believe the granting of French language rights will in no way "determine how the rest of the population shall live," nor will reasonable English language rights in Quebec have any such effect there As to the Constitution, both provinces entered Confederation with bilingual status Majority votes usually prevail in a democracy but must not go unchallenged when used to impose tyranny on a linguistic or cultural minority The franco-Manitobans are not demanding that unwilling people learn French They do rightly desire restoration of rights that were assured by the Manitoba Act of 1870 and abolished or severely restricted in 1890 in a process that was somewhat less than democratic.

—WILFRED L. HIGHFIELD,
Peachland, B.C.

Jockey: not generic

Concerning your April 2 *Fashion* article, *Skivvies for the ladies* Jockey is the registered trademark of Jockey International of Kenosha, Wis., and Harvey Woods Ltd is the registered user of this trademark in Canada The name Jockey is not to be used in a generic manner as it was in your article

—HAROLD CUMMINGS,
General Manager, Underwear Division, Harvey Woods Ltd., Toronto

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PASSAGES

DIED: Supreme Court Justice **Bora Laskin, 71**, of complications following pneumonia, in Ottawa (page 44).

DIED: Robert Francis Riddell, 81, the former Canadian army major generally credited with killing the **Mad Trapper of Rat River**; in Ottawa In 1932 Riddell allegedly fired the fatal shot that ended a much-publicized RCMP search through the Yukon for a man, still unidentified, who was thought to be the killer of a Mountie earlier that year Riddell joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in 1922 and became a famous figure in the Arctic, where he was posted from 1924 to 1938.

DIED: President **Ahmed Sékou Touré** of Guinea, 62, the longest-serving head of state in modern Africa, during heart surgery, in Cleveland, Ohio Touré, the first president of the new republic of Guinea in 1958, severed ties with France to pursue a policy of socialism, self-reliance and African solidarity A ruthless and colorful leader, during the 1970s Touré was responsible for bloody purges during which thousands of people disappeared, about one-fifth of the population was exiled and 35 of his cabinet ministers were executed or imprisoned

DIED: Carmen Dragon, 69, the Academy Award-winning composer-conductor who scored the 1944 musical *Cover Girl*; of cancer, in Santa Monica, Calif. Dragon, the father of **Daryl Dragon** of The Captain and Tennille, made popular classical music for four decades on record, film, radio and television. Dragon recorded more than 75 albums, arranged music for such stars as **Judy Garland** and **Nelson Eddy** and conducted for such radio shows as **Fanny Brice's** *Baby Snooks* (1939) and *Railroad Hour* (1948).

AWARDED: The Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor, to actor **James Cagney, 84**, for contributions to the film industry, by President **Ronald Reagan**, in Washington The 14 recipients of the award also included **John F. Kennedy's** sister, **Eunice Kennedy Shriver**, for her work with retarded children, and heart surgeon **Dr. Denton Cooley** Three posthumous awards went to **Jackie Robinson**, the first black major league baseball player; former Egyptian president **Anwar el-Sadat**; and **Whittaker Chambers**, the onetime Soviet agent and former editor of *Time* magazine, who in 1948 accused U S state department official **Alger Hiss** of Soviet espionage, sparking an enduring ideological controversy

A bitter irony

Your recent examination of Canadian involvement in Nicaragua (*The political missionary movement*, Behavior, Feb 27) quotes a source close to the department of external affairs as fearing "... the nightmare that one day we might wake up to see Canadians fighting our allies, the Americans, in a foreign country." One wonders if Canadians can stomach being implicated (by association) with the shameless colonialist actions of the United States Given the morally unjustifiable U S attacks on Nicaragua, the term "our allies" takes on a bitter irony that is much more easily overlooked than accepted

—MICHAEL J STRATHDEE,
Stratford, Ont.

A smouldering issue

By publishing Fred Bruning's column *Drawing the 'smoking' battle lines* (March 12) *Maclean's* has chosen to relegate the issue of smoking and smoking in public places to a "humble issue," in which nonsmokers are depicted as people "with a reputation for assaulting life as though it were a rival sumo wrestler" I would like to offer two points First, as the killer of more than 30,000 Canadians per year, smoking is the number 1 preventable cause of death in the country Second, the March, 1984, Addiction Research Foundation *Journal* states that "The balance of evidence points toward harm to healthy adults from prolonged exposure to second-hand smoke" This important issue for all Canadians deserves greater media attention

—BEN W KAAK,
Toronto

Fred Bruning's column was right to cite the lack of tobacco industry ethics What Bruning did not mention is the reason nonsmokers are demanding the provision of smoke-free areas. The truth is those same toxic fumes that kill more than 30,000 Canadian smokers annually are often placed in the air others must breathe Numerous studies now show that the presence of this "second-hand" smoke is causing many, often serious, diseases in nonsmokers

—LINDA L. HUEHN MD,
Toronto

Spelling it out

I was surprised, then perplexed, by the statement in the article *Canada after Trudeau* (Cover, March 12) that Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan, "recently divorced, lives with a former aide in Ottawa's trendy Glebe district" Are you trying to say, through implication, that MacGuigan is living in "sin" with a woman? The word "aide" is ambiguous my *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary* does not even define it, and my *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* defines it as aide-de-camp, so the person could be male or female Please spell it out

—PETER MCGUIGAN,
Halifax

The excellent review of my novel *Love Is a Long Shot* (*A comrade comes of age*, Books, March 5) inadvertently creates a wrong impression concerning the authorship of two books—*The Scalpel, The Sword, The Story of Dr Norman Bethune* and *Lues My Father Told Me*. I am not the sole author of the Bethune biography, but its coauthor I *am* the sole author of the original screenplay of *Lues My Father Told Me*, but the novel based on this screenplay was written by Norman Allan

—TED ALLAN,
Hollywood, Calif

Restraint vs. robbery in B.C.

I wish the media would stop using the word "restraint" to describe the past two budgets of the Social Credit government in British Columbia (*Budgeting for austerity*, Canada, March 5) It is not "restraint" to pour millions of dollars in subsidies into the northeast coal project (which now looks like an expensive disaster), more millions into B.C. Rail and



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still more millions into B C Place. It is not "restraint" to increase ministry travel budgets 2½ times over 1983 or to publish a propaganda sheet for an estimated $200,000 or to have a multimillion-dollar public relations department. Rather than "restraint," the proper word is, at best, priorities and, at worst, robbery. The robbery occurs at the expense of schools, universities, the poor, the handicapped, volunteer organizations (which are supposed to pick up where government leaves off, but without any budget), the sick, women and minorities. —BARBARA HOURSTON,
Nanaimo, B.C.

A grey day for native people

How unfortunate for Canada that March 9, 1984, turned out to be a black Friday for native aspirations at the conference of first ministers (*A deadlock on native rights*, Canada, March 19). What did come through clearly was how eloquent, articulate and with what sensitivity the first people expressed themselves compared to the intransigent premiers. The latter could well take some speaking lessons from the former to help make up for their obvious insensitivity. It will be a sad day for Canada if violence and tragedy eventually result from what could, and should, have been settled so easily and amicably.
—W J OXENDALE,
Calgary

In defence of Koestler

Though the excesses of certain elements within the print media have never moved me to the point of letter-writing, a response to your shocking contextual misrepresentation of Arthur Koestler is in order (*A portrait of devotion*, Books, March 19). It is not my intention here to defend Koestler—he was entirely capable of that for himself when he was alive. But to use the confessions of a dead man, be they to his priest or in this case to his diary, solely to degrade him and savage his reputation in an effort to titillate your readership, casts further dishonor upon the already tarnished public image of the journalistic profession. —RONALD M PASCOE
Edmonton

The information gap

Regarding *The politics of gender* (Canada, Feb 20), is there not a lot missing? The brief paragraph dismissing the New Democratic Party as flagging in its "efforts to win over women" is perfunctory to the point of positive error. No doubt other New Democrats would want to remind you about the strong commitment of the party to gender parity. Others would tell you just how long the party has had a "women's committee" (23 years), still others would tell you that its mandate has been updated and strengthened in recent years and that affirmative action legislated by the federal party for its executive and committees is working, with profound implications for the future. Provincial party activists would want to tell you about their leadership schools for women, their search for, and support of, potential candidates who are women, their own affirmative-action policies and their battles against regressive legislation put forward by governments formed by other parties. What concerns me the most, however, is the inference readers may draw that criticism, whether levelled at the leader or policy, is necessarily a bad thing. What good is a watchdog that does not bark?
—EILEEN O'CONNELL,
Participation of Women Committee, New Democratic Party, Halifax

An economic turnaround?

Regarding *Turner's losing venture* (Business/Economy, March 19) if the "Member from Winston's" cannot direct a small-business development company, Infinitum Growth Fund Inc, to profitability over three years, how could he be expected to put the national economy into a "Turner-round" situation? —BRIAN THRIPPLETON
Oakville, Ont.

A champion in her own right

In the March 12 *Passages* column, Gerry Sorensen's retirement from World Cup skiing was tacked on as the last statement in the notice of Steve Podborski's retirement. Since Sorensen is a world champion, why did she not receive the same treatment when she retired?
—DEIRDRE WALFORD
Montreal

Mistaken identity

You published a photograph with the wrong name attached to it on the *Letters* page of the March 19 issue. You attached the name Leopoldo Galtieri to a photograph of Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín. The mistake is even worse considering that you had recently published an extensive article about the new Argentina and the new democratically elected president.
—ORLANDO AUCIELLO,
Downsview, Ont.

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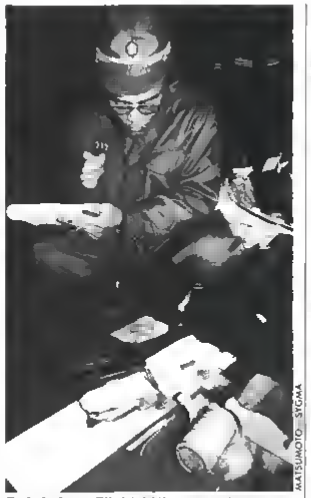


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FOLLOW-UP

The mysteries of KAL Flight 007

At 6:27 p.m. last Sept. 1 the flight crew of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 sent a final, frantic message to ground control in Tokyo: "Rapid decompression . . . descending to one zero thousand." Then there was silence. Seconds later the 747, which had strayed unaccountably into Soviet airspace while on a routine flight from New York to Seoul, South Korea, plunged into the Sea of Japan, killing all 269 passengers and crew. It took days for the cause of the flight's disappearance to emerge. It took five days for the Soviet Union to admit that two Soviet SU-15 jets had shot the plane down as it flew over the Kamchatka peninsula. The incident—the worst attack on a civilian airliner—sparked protracted U.S.-Soviet recriminations, universal outrage and more than 80 lawsuits—including one for $2.1 million that Canada filed last December against the Soviet Union on behalf of the eight Canadians on board. For one month after the tragedy, South Korean, Japanese and U.S. search teams, unaided by the Soviets, tried to locate the plane's flight recorder in the Sea of Japan in the hopes of piecing together the final moments of the doomed flight. But they never found it, and today, after months of inquiry, many critical questions remain unanswered. They include: why KAL Flight 007 was so dangerously far off course, whether the Soviets gave the airliner any warning before shooting it down, and whether the Americans tried to warn KAL 007's crew that the flight was off course at the time of the shooting.



MATSUMOTO—SYGMA

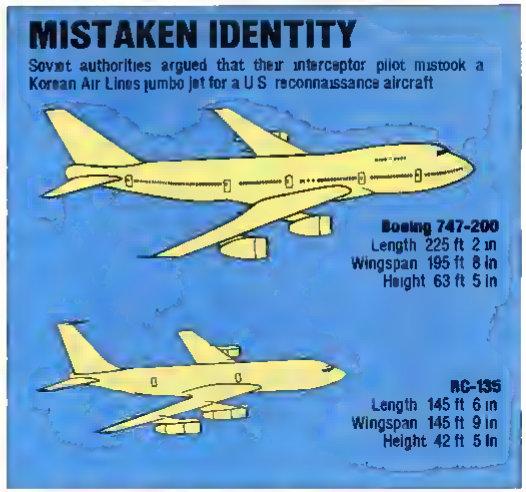
Debris from Flight 007: triggar-happy

According to a detailed report released last December by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)—a Montreal-based United Nations agency to which 151 countries, including the Soviet Union, belong—shortly after leaving Anchorage, Alaska at 12:58 p.m. on Sept. 1 on the last leg of its journey to Seoul, the jumbo jet began deviating to the north of its assigned route. The new route took the plane over the Kamchatka peninsula and the sensitive naval base of Petropavlovsk, home to some 90 Soviet nuclear-powered submarines. When the plane approached Sakhalin Island near the Sea of Japan—slightly more than two hours after Soviet radar picked up an unidentified aircraft approaching Soviet airspace—Soviet ground control ordered Soviet SU-15 interceptor jets to destroy the intruder. One jet, using two heat-seeking missiles, succeeded.

The Soviets did not admit to deliberately downing the aircraft until five days after the fiery crash. And since then they have maintained their right to do so, alleging that KAL Flight 007 had doubled as a spy plane for the United States, a claim that the Americans have denied. The ICAO report concluded that the crew members of KAL Flight 007 made an elementary navigational error and that they knew the plane had drifted into Soviet airspace. After a lengthy investigation of the jumbo's navigation systems and the record of radio contacts with it, the ICAO committee rejected the spy theory as well as two others: that the plane might have been taking a shortcut to save fuel, and that someone might have hijacked it.

Instead, the report embraced the theory that the crew erroneously programmed the navigational systems. The plane's computer then navigated the plane an additional 500 km to the west—directly into Soviet territory. According to airline industry officials, that theory points to alarming negligence in the Korean cockpit. The ICAO report conceded that the programming error suggested "a lack of alertness and attentiveness on the part of the entire flight crew"—but, the report added in a chilling rider, "not to a degree unknown in civil aviation."

Western intelligence experts contend that the ICAO report tells only part of the story. The U.S. and South Korean governments' early claim that the Soviets had massacred 269 civilians in cold blood initially won wide acceptance. But since then the U.S. intelligence community has concluded that although the Soviets may have been trigger-happy, they believed that they were attacking a military plane: the U.S. RC-135 electronic intelligence aircraft, an immensely sophisticated flying eavesdropper which uses the same airframe as a Boeing 707, a smaller version of the 747. In the December, 1983, issue of the influential U.S. electronics monthly magazine *I.E.E.E. Spectrum*, U.S. intelligence officials conceded that Soviet ground radar might not have distinguished a 707 from a 747. They also accept the contention that the Soviet pilot who fired the missiles made visual identification from below and behind the 747. Said one U.S. intelligence source: "From that position, the pilot would probably not know what kind of plane he was shooting down."



Western military experts have also concluded that the Soviets had reason to expect that a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft might be in the area the night of the shooting. According to the U.S. trade publication *Aerospace Daily*, on the night of Aug. 31, just hours before the KAL tragedy, the Soviets were planning to test a new missile, which would have landed on the Kamchatka peninsula. The Soviets would have expected the U.S. National Security Agency—the secret eyes and ears of the United States with the most sophisticated electronic spy centre in the world—with its prodigious intelligence capabilities, to try to find out exactly how the missile performed. Among the NSA's resources in the area: low-altitude Ferret satellites, which monitor Soviet radio transmissions; the six-storey-high Cobra Dane radar facility at Shemya in Alaska's Aleutian archipelago; and the RC-135, which routinely maintains 24-hour surveillance of Kamchatka.

Writing in the Denver *Post* in September, Tom Bernard and T. Edward Eskelson, two former RC-135 pilots, claimed that the NSA adjusts RC-135 flight paths from time to time "so that they will intentionally penetrate the airspace of a target nation to bring its air defence systems into alert," making it possible to better examine them for potential weaknesses. The two concluded that an RC-135 must have been in the area when the Korean flight entered Soviet territory. In February the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) at the request of the NSA, warned Bernard and Eskelson that they had "technically violated U.S. espionage laws" by revealing previous spy missions in the Sakhalin area. Since then the pair has refused further comment on the matter except to admit that, if the FBI meant to intimidate them with the warning, then the agency had succeeded.

It may be left to U.S. courts to decide whether U.S. intelligence officials took any steps to warn the ill-fated 747 that it was deep in Soviet airspace. One lawsuit has combined 81 actions filed by 100 families of the dead. The suit, in a U.S. Federal Court in Washington, D.C., claims negligence by Boeing, the plane's builder, by Litton Industries, the maker

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of the 747's navigational gear, and by the U.S. government. A trial date has not yet been set. The government also faces charges that it failed to warn KAL 007 of the danger, and that it jeopardized the lives of the passengers by operating an RC-135 in the vicinity of the commercial aircraft. For its part, the U.S. government has asked to be excused as a defendant on the grounds that the Soviet Union is the true villain.

Ottawa's case against the Soviet Union on behalf of the eight Canadians killed on the flight "will take time," according to an External Affairs spokesman in Ottawa. Said John Noble: "Remember how long it took to get compensation after the nuclear-powered Soviet satellite disintegrated over the Northwest Territories in 1978? Three years." South Korea is a signatory of an international insurance convention that limits compensation payments to $75,000 per passenger. Still, last November, Korean Air Lines approved $100,000 in compensation payments for each of the 81 Korean passengers and 29 crew on Flight 007. The airline will also pay for the education of the 105 children of the Korean victims. And a spokesman for the airline said that KAL will negotiate compensation for the foreigners killed with the individual countries involved. Last month there was a corporate shake-up at Korean Air Lines. Airline officials announced that the president, as well as other senior executives, had been moved to other positions within the company. Also, 14 pilots were forced to resign, but company spokesmen denied that the changes suggested that pilot screening had been lax. Since the downing of KAL 007 the airline has altered its route so that planes fly farther from Soviet-occupied Sakhalin Island. Now Korean Air Lines designates its New York to Seoul route Flight 017.

For their part, the Soviets have already reviewed, and rejected, the ICAO report. Boris Rygenkov, a senior Soviet delegate to the ICAO, called it "a gross misrepresentation" riddled with "assumptions" and "bias." But Rygenkov did not supply any counterevidence. And Soviet watchers detected partial acknowledgment of responsibility for the aircraft downing in the January issue of the Soviet Air Forces magazine *Aviatsiya i Kosmonavtika*. An article signed by Col.-Gen. Sergei V. Golubev, a deputy commander-in-chief of the air force for combat training, criticized the conduct of ground officers who "hide behind the backs of others," and implicitly condemned the conduct of the SU-15 pilot who shot down the Korean plane. The general noted that in combat, "the main person is the pilot. . . . The situation may be such that the pilot himself must take the final decision, for example, to force the intruder to land at the closest airport."

In Washington the disaster is no longer the object of punitive diplomatic moves. The Americans continue to deny the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, landing rights in the United States. But with the installation of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, the Reagan administration is eager to improve relations with Moscow. Said one state department Soviet affairs expert, "It was a terrible thing, but the picture is more ambiguous now than it at first seemed. Now people want to see arms-control talks back on the track. They do not want old business to stand in the way." The official added that it is doubtful that the Soviets will ever pay compensation, "but there is some recognition that it was a mistake."

The diplomatic and legal game of trying to find the culprit continues, but Western military experts and ICAO members fear that the truth may never be known. The real reason KAL Flight 007 strayed so far off course may remain with its flight recorder, which now lies at the bottom of the Sea of Japan.

—WILLIAM LOWTHER *and* DAVID COX *in Washington, with Jane Mingay in Toronto*





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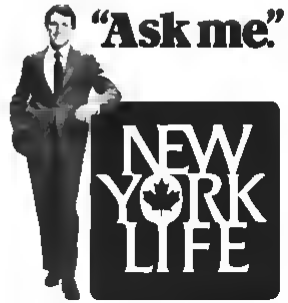
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Ernö Rubik's playthings

Rubik's Cube was the world's first "designer" toy. It was also the first toy to be blamed for marriage breakdowns, temporary insanity and even its own unique forms of tendonitis known as Rubik's Thumb and Rubik's Wrist. Since it made its debut at the Budapest International Fair in 1977, the little cube has transformed its inventor, Ernö Rubik, from a little-known Hungarian professor into a multimillionaire and a household name.

The craze to solve the conundrum of the cube—by arranging 54 small squares in six colors so that each of the cube's six sides shows only one color—quickly swept through Europe and North America. In the past seven years more than 150 million of the $10 brainteasers have sold worldwide. Recently, sales have begun to decline—last year cube sales were only a fraction of what they were in the early 1980s, when more than 18 million were sold in North America.

But Rubik still earns more than $300,000 a year in royalties, mostly from sales in the Soviet Union, where the cube first appeared in 1982. And Rubik, 40, is now preparing to launch a new plaything on the North American market.

Success has put greater demands on Rubik's time. The inventor continues to teach design and architecture at the Budapest Academy of Applied Arts and Crafts. He publishes an English-language magazine called *Rubik's logic and fantasy in space*; he hosts local cube championships, and he is writing his autobiography which William Morrow & Co. Inc. will release in North America early next year. Said Rubik: "I work 25 hours a day. It is impossible to find enough time to get everything done."

Games of logic remain Rubik's passion. After the cube, the professor launched the less demanding Rubik's Snake and Rubik's Game. But after disappointing sales both were discontinued. That only made Rubik try harder. Last December he organized Rubik's Studio in Budapest, where 16 designers help him with new inventions. Rubik hopes to introduce the first Studio product to North America soon, but so far he has refused to disclose any details. The reason: he wants to deter the kind of imitators who rushed to produce copies of his original cube.

In Canada, where more than one million cubes have sold since 1981-82, most households have at least one of Rubik's original inventions—or an imitation. Ronald Lancaster, 31, a mathematics teacher at Oakville-Trafalgar High School in Oakville, Ont., uses 300 Rubik's Cubes to demonstrate math logic in areas such as three-dimensional geometry. But although the cube is a useful teaching aid, Lancaster's students are obsessed with how fast they can solve the riddle. They use grease, Vaseline and PAM, a nonsticking cooking agent, to improve their completion times. Some even fit their cubes with ball bearings. Explained Lancaster: "If you turn a side too quickly, you can sometimes pass the point where you want to be. The ball bearings help lock the sides in place at the right time."

Still, the students' ingenuity has not enabled them to match two 1982 feats: the Canadian record of 26 seconds, set by Duc Trinh, then 14, of Kitchener, Ont., and the world record of 22.95 seconds, set by Minh Thai, then 16, of the United States, at the world championship in Budapest. Players who are less agile can take heart from Rubik: so far he has failed to solve his own puzzle in less than a minute. Said the inventor: "Nobody over 30 can do it in under 60 seconds. And time is not on my side."

—JANE WIDERMAN *in Toronto*

Billie Jean King's struggle

For 15 years before she turned 40 last November, Billie Jean King referred to herself as "the old lady" of women's professional tennis. In part, it was because she had accomplished so much in a relatively short time. She made her debut at Wimbledon—the most prestigious tournament in the world of tennis—in 1961 when she was only 18. Since then she has won 20 Wimbledon and 13 U.S. Open Titles. In 1970 she began persuading the commercial sponsors of tennis to offer the same prize money for women's tournaments as for men's—a campaign with which she has had only partial success. Then, in 1971, she became the first woman athlete to earn more than $100,000 a year. King still ranks number 12 in women's professional tennis but she concedes that her competitive days are nearly over. Said King: "I am in a transition now."

King's progress was undeterred even by two formal retirements from professional tennis. After each, she returned to play with renewed zeal. Recently, she has spent much of her time playing in tournaments on the Women's Tennis Classic—a tour King herself started—which is only open to players over the age of 30. But last summer at Wimbledon she proved that she can still play with the youngest and the best. During the June competition King stunned even her fans by reaching the semifinals for the 14th time in her career, becoming the oldest semifinalist since 1920.

Along with the silver trophies and glowing kudos, King's career has also brought her personal hardship. When she was 15 her coach told her that she would succeed, not because she was good but because she was ugly. In the early 1960s, when few men and even fewer women made tennis their career, many people ridiculed King and called her a renegade because of her ambition to become an outstanding female athlete. King suffered the most devastating blow in 1981, when Marilyn Barnett sued her for palimony, alleging that the two women had been lovers for seven years. Barnett, 35, claimed that she was entitled to an interest in King's $500,000 Malibu beach home in California and to half of King's earnings during the years she said they had been together. King admitted having had a lesbian relationship with Barnett but she decided to challenge her former secretary in court. King's husband, Larry, 39, a lawyer and a sports promoter whom she married in 1965, supported her throughout the ordeal.

In December, 1981, California Superior Court Judge Julius Title finally dismissed the suit, saying that Barnett was attempting extortion. But by that time the scandal had already tarnished King's image. When Barnett's allegations became public, King was concluding negotiations to endorse a line of tennis clothes. King says that the company withdrew its offer because of the publicity, and the tennis star also lost a number of other lucrative endorsement contracts. In all, King estimates the Barnett incident cost her $2 million in lost sponsorships.

King's main interest now lies in encouraging women to compete with men in sport. Said King, who believes that she would know how good she really was if she had been able to play against men: "I see the day coming when we will be competing on the basis of our individual abilities, not our gender." Some people in professional sports might consider King's contention to be just another example of feminist rhetoric. But King has always been slightly ahead of her time. The old lady of tennis is still waiting for society to catch up with her.

—JANE O'HARA *in Vancouver*

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COLUMN



Reagan's unanswered prayers

By Fred Bruning

Church attendance is not one of President Reagan's priorities. Like so many of his countrymen, Reagan prefers to spend sabbath mornings beyond range of the preacher's hum and the chancel choir's wakeful blast. Good enough. If the U.S. leader delights more in the Sunday paper than the weekly bulletin, if he chooses to watch vintage Roadrunner cartoons instead of witnessing the baptismal rite, if he wants to forgo suit and tie and remain in flannel pyjamas, who is to say he should be denied the privilege?

Yet aides at the White House claim that President Reagan, in fact, laments his absence from the pew. They plead that this fine and considerate man stays home only because his appearance would upset the routine of other churchgoers and occasion such an unholy stir that solemnity, and perhaps safety, would be gravely compromised. Recently, the president himself was moved to explain, "I represent too much of a threat to too many other people for me to be able to go to church."

With all due respect to Mr. Reagan, the people of the United States know better. The danger is not that Ronald Reagan will go to church and disturb the peace but that he will mistake cathedral spires for enemy missiles and order a retaliatory strike. The record shows that this is a president who avoids organized worship whenever possible, his perfect right in the home of the free. Separation of church and state is a cherished American ideal. If a president wants to sleep late on Sunday morning, many would agree we are better off for his snoring.

How remarkable, then, to find Mr. Reagan lobbying with apostolic fervor for a measure designed to invite the church into the public domain. The president, who, for all we know, has no more inclination to pray than he does to wear ballet tights to meetings of the National Security Council, has been harping for weeks about the necessity of a constitutional amendment that would permit prayer sessions in the classroom. "Americans are turning back to God," he rejoiced in a speech before the National Association of Evangelicals. "Faith and hope are being restored." Not surprisingly, the crowd answered, "Amen."

It is the belief of Mr. Reagan that school authorities should be allowed to set aside a few minutes each day for religious activity—for a time when students might stick their Bubble Yum under the desk and begin communication with their God. Kids jabber with friends at lunch and in the corridors and on the bus ride home. What possibly could be wrong with affording them the chance to engage in higher-level discussions? We all know how passionately the average 12-year-old longs to bend the divine ear and what dislocation the child will suffer if, immediately after the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the teacher does not undertake a daily meditation. The president wants to rescue the youth of America from such despair.

In his campaign Mr. Reagan is supported by the familiar coalition of TV evangelists and crypto-Calvinist theherds who have convinced themselves that if only the children would pray our suffering country would be saved from the moral doom so long impending. Curiously, those are the folks most determined in other matters to lift government off the backs of the people and who see in every social program the portent of Soviet-style centralization. Those who want kids in home room to cease discussing the virtues of break dancing and begin negotiating eternal salvation are the same freethinkers who denounce federal regulations demanding racial integration in the schools. On the issue of prayer they want a constitutional amendment. Regarding school busing, they perceive government action as unpatriotic.

> ***'He will not disturb the peace in church but he may mistake the cathedral spires for enemy missiles'***

While the president was exhorting Congress to accommodate his brethren on the fundamentalist right, the Supreme Court, in another matter, did its part to smudge the line between church and state. Pawtucket, a city in Rhode Island, had sought, and in turn was given, permission by the judges to erect a taxpayer-supported crèche during Christmas observances—not a terribly big deal, one might agree, but hardly an encouraging development in a country founded by resolute souls who arrived in wooden ships to escape the rigors of an imperious king and his religion.

The difficulty with the crèche decision and with the push for school prayer is that such actions have the effect of establishing Christianity as the national religion. Currently, children of all persuasions are entirely welcome to pray silently whenever spirit or situation move them—before trigonometry examinations, upon being nabbed in the rest room with a smouldering cigarette, on the afternoon report cards are issued—and, even if they fell to their knees and made raucous supplication, the teacher likely would do nothing more than apply a cool compress and suggest a nap.

An informal approach is not satisfactory to Mr. Reagan, nor to others who ordinarily extol the virtues of personal expression. They want prayer ordered, imposed and uttered aloud—insisting all the while that minority rights will not suffer in the process. All creeds could be accommodated with skilful use of neutral language, they say. Everyone will feel at ease—Jew, Hindu, Sikh, Confucianist, Hare Krishna, Ethical Culturist, whomever—when the Christian kids begin to pray. Agnostics and atheists may remain silent, should they have the courage.

Prior to the March 20 Senate vote on the proposed amendment, Washington took on the atmosphere of a tent meeting. Demonstrators chanted, "Kids want to pray! Kids want to pray!" A woman pulled a mannequin dressed like Jesus from her station wagon and set him up on the sidewalk. President Reagan invited 20 senators to the White House for a last-minute pep talk. Remarkably, only four legislators bothered to drop by—an omen, to be sure.

On judgment day senators defeated the proposal soundly, the president's fear of a catastrophic "religious vacuum" notwithstanding. Subsequently, the White House issued an official lament. Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority, warned that infidels on Capitol Hill would be smitten at the polls come November. Representing the opposing view was another churchman, Rev. Dean M. Kelley of the National Council of Churches. Kelley noted that prayer amendments have been defeated seven times since 1962 and added, "I think the right side has prevailed again." As even the unsanctified might say, "Glory be."

Fred Bruning is a writer with Newsday *in New York.*





DAVE BONNER

HAROLD ROSE/ REFO

Mulroney (left), Cogger: not since 1958 has the Conservative party had so much reason for optimism in Quebec

CANADA

The Tory revival in Quebec

By Anthony Wilson-Smith

Shortly after the 1980 federal election, Montreal lawyer Michel Cogger says that he attended a mass during which the priest asked the congregation to pray for the underprivileged, the alcoholic and the lame "Don't forget the Tories," shouted a parishioner, who shared the common view that the party's need was equally great Today the Tories still hold only one of the province's 75 federal seats, but for the first time since 1958—when the Conservatives won 50 Quebec seats in the John Diefenbaker landslide—there are signs of a Tory resurgence in the Liberal bastion

Indeed, Tory nomination meetings, which in the past could sometimes not be held because of the lack of members, are now crowded. Last week, in the small Eastern Townships village of East Angus, more than 1,200 Tory supporters packed the local hockey arena for the biggest candidate nomination meeting in the history of Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead riding And earlier nomination meetings in Trois-Rivières and the Laurentian Mountains riding of Labelle were equally well attended As Cogger, a friend and adviser to party Leader Brian Mulroney, put it, "For the first time, being a Tory in Quebec is something more than being the target of jokes at cocktail parties."

The renewal of Conservative hopes for an electoral breakthrough in Quebec coincided with the ascension of a native son to the federal party leadership last year One of the first things Mulroney did was to step up an organizing drive started by former leader Joe Clark, in the past two years party membership in the province has jumped to 75,000 from 7,000 Conservative organizers claim 15,000 Quebecers have become Tories since Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced his retirement plans Feb 29

Mulroney, with his fluent, idiomatic French and his frequent references to his upbringing in the remote north shore lumber town of Baie Comeau, already seems to be replacing the Liberal leader as the province's hope for a strong voice in Ottawa. Many francophones acknowledge Mulroney as *"un de nousaut"* (one of us) Many Quebecers believe that Mulroney's strong support of official bilingualism, serving as a contrast to the softer posture of Liberal leadership aspirant John Turner, has further helped the Tory cause Looking forward to a possible contest between Mulroney and the Toronto lawyer Cogger said, "I think we can have ourselves a lot of fun putting the boy from Baie Comeau up against the hero of Bay Street."

Many Quebec Tories actually believe that the party could win 25 to 30 seats in the next federal election If they succeed in reaching that daunting number, it will be one of the great political comebacks in Canadian history In 1980 the Conservatives finished behind the fringe Rhinocerous Party, a group specializing in slapstick politics, in two ridings Quebec City lawyer Gary Ouellet, a longtime Tory and a member of the party's six-man candidate seareh committee, said, "There were times when I used to look out my office window and wonder whether there was a single Conservative left in town besides myself."

Today, Ouellet and other party organizers claim they are finding new converts almost everywhere they look Polls put the Toriss' popular support at between 30 and 40 per cent in most areas of the province One fertile source of recruite is the provincial Liberal party Provincial leader Robert Bourassa, an old and close friend of Mulroney's, has quietly told the party that members may work for any party they wish In turn, some Liberal back-benchers have told their organizers to co-operate fully with the Conservatives In Trudeau's riding of Mount Royal dozens of provincial Liberals are helping the Tories

The same enthusiasm is evident in the rush of prospective candidates Fernand Roberge, who heads the search committee for candidates, said he has received more than 300 "serious" applications The PCs are steering clear of too many big-name candidates, either by design or because of a lack of prospects But the party has made overtures to some key Quebecers, including Lawrence Hanigan, president of the Montreal Transit Commission, Lucien Bouchard, the Quebec government's chief labor negotiator and a former Laval University classmate of Mulroney's, Jérome Choquette, former provincial justice minister, and Nick Auf de Maur, a Montreal journalist and city councillor

Deciding who will run may prove easier than deciding where Mulroney himself should face the voters Quebec Tories say it is virtually certain that Mulroney will run in the province and give up the Central Nova riding that first elected him to the Commons last August But some organizers feel the move into more difficult electoral territory would force Mulroney to spend too much time campaigning in Quebec, causing him to neglect the rest of the country If he does run in Quebec, the most likely choice is Brome-Missisquoi in the Eastern Townships, a riding that Conservative Heward Grafftey held until his defeat in 1980 The other choice is Manicouagan on the North Shore, which includes Mulroney's home town

But despite the Tories' newfound enthusiasm, some problems remain Earlier this year Mulroney's office had to admonish a group of former Clark supporters, led by Clark's former Quebec campaign chairman, Marcel Danis, to stop working secretly to captura key nominations in order to maintain their influence within the party. More recently, Gabriel Fontaine, a former Clark supporter and the party's candidate in the Levis riding in the Quebec City area, said the party could win only 12 to 15 seats. He added that "in each of those cases, it will be essentially a personal victory" based on the strength of the individual candidate, not the party But Bernard Roy, Mulroney's chief Quebec organizer, has been working hard to bring former Clark backers to the leader's camp, and Conservatives credit him with easing party divisiveness

The party's private and public politics will be tested over the next few months as the Tories gear up their "pre-election campaign." Mulroney plans to spend more time in the province trying to capitalise on his personal popularity At the same time, his followers, buoyed by the polls and by the flock of new party members, will be campaigning hard For the time being at least, Quebec Tories no longer consider themselves among the underprivileged of the province ⊕

Mulroney's rough ride

Over the past six months, an angry split has developed between Brian Mulroney's federal Conservatives and Tories in Manitoba over the province's bitter dispute about French-language rights Last week, in an attempt to repair the damage, Mulroney flew to Winnipeg and, in the face of booing and hacking from an angry and disruptive audience, acknowledged that western Canadians are entitled to their own, unilingual view of Canada. But he stood by his defence of minority language rights "The Canadian challenge," he declared, "is to allay the fear that acceptance of linguistic duality means the rejection of cultural diversity—to find common ground between the two great visions of our country."



ROBERT LANE

Trudeau extending bilingualism in Canadian life

Mulroney's attempt at fence mending, which left many Manitoba Tories confused and even angry, came at a time when passions are still running high in the province following the attempt by Premier Howard Pawley's New Democratic Party government to extend language rights to Manitoba's 50,000 francophones After a furious six-month battle in the legislature with the opposition Conservatives, who increasingly found themselves at odds with Mulroney over the issue, the Pawley government abandoned its legislation at the end of February The issue now is headed for the Supreme Court of Canada, which will consider arguments on the complex historical question of francophone rights in Manitoba. After listening to Mulroney last week, Marilyn Woloshyn, a schoolteacher of Ukrainian descent, from Lakeport, Man, near Winnipeg, admitted that she was not "totally satisfied I'm not sure where Mulroney is going," she said "But to feed us the statement that there are two founding races on the Prairies—I cannot buy that." Said Douglas Wade, a retired Winnipeg businessman "Quite frankly, Mulroney lost points tonight People expected better answars than they got."

There was hostility in the air when Mulroney appeared before the crowd of more than 2,000 disgruntled Manitobans at Winnipeg's downtown Holiday Inn. He began by acknowledging that there is a different view of Confederation in Western Canada, which was settled by waves of immigrants for whom English "became the quasi-universal instrument of communication." While language "is a gift meant to bring people together," declared Mulroney, the Liberal government in Ottawa, because of the way it imposed official bilingualism at the federal level, had "exploited our differences and drawn us apart." When the Tory leader tried to explain the founding of Canada as a compact between two linguistic groups, the heckling began "How about the rest of Canada?" yelled a man When Mulroney explained, "I'm getting there," hecklers responded, "We're waiting, Brian, we're waiting."

As the interruptions and booing mounted, tension began to show on Mulroney's face and that of his wife, Mila He declared that his fundamental belief is that "real national unity will never be achieved until French-speaking Canadians living outside Quebec enjoy no fewer rights than English-speaking Canadians" In an effort to show that he was not trying to interfere in Manitoba's affairs, Mulroney added, "I am not here to order or direct anyone along this road" A hecklar responded loudly, "You're sure as hell not" The language debate, declared Mulroney, "is a complex and emotional issue There is no painless way to proceed . . . But you would have hed no respect for me had I tried to come down on both sides of the issue at once"

Mulroney's brave attempt at peacemaking won varying degrees of ap-

proval from Conservative members of the Manitoba legislature and from western Tory MPs, who have opposed Mulroney's defence of francophone rights. Because of his differences with Mulroney over the language issue, Bud Sherman, deputy leader of the Manitoba Conservatives, had held off declaring his candidacy for the Tory nomination in the Winnipeg-Fort Garry seat held by Transport Minister Lloyd Axworthy. But he interpreted Mulroney's speech as indicating that their views were now compatible, and he will probably declare his candidacy this week. Mulroney, conceded Sherman, said "things that will open doors and windows and help accommodate western Canadian ideas and feelings."

Dan McKenzie, a Tory MP for Winnipeg whom Mulroney rebuked last February for supporting the battle against the NDP's language legislation, said that Mulroney had "made it plainly clear that he is not going to force [bilingualism] on the province at all." But Dave Blake, leader of the Conservative caucus in the Manitoba legislature, was less enthusiastic. He felt that Mulroney had made a good speech but doubted that "it was the message all Manitobans were looking for."

For his part, Mulroney professed to be "delighted" by the response to his speech. In Calgary the next day, where a friendly audience, which included Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed and former Conservative leader Joe Clark, applauded Mulroney's insistence that French-speaking Canadians must be able to feel at home in all parts of the country, he jokingly referred to his reception in Winnipeg as being "so warm it scorched my suit."

Meanwhile, in a Quebec City speech billed as his last political testament, Pierre Trudeau advanced a surprisingly low-key and unemotional defence of bilingualism. In a speech to a black-tie audience at Laval university, Trudeau recounted the efforts made under his leadership to extend bilingualism in Canadian life, noting that the reforms "sometimes ran up against certain established customs, and even deep-rooted prejudices." Despite that, he said, linguistic, cultural and legal reforms had been enacted in recent years so that "Quebecers, and all Canadians, will once again feel that they are playing a full part in Canadian life and will once again be proud to call themselves Canadians." Even Trudeau, who spoke in a flat and unenthusiastic monotone, may have felt that, in the light of the bitter language deadlock in Manitoba, his words constituted at best a noble hope. —MARK NICHOLS, *with Andrew Nikiforuk in Winnipeg, Gordon Legge in Calgary and Anthony Wilson-Smith in Quebec City*

MacEachen's Liberal largess

Since he first won election to Parliament in 1953, Allan MacEachen has worked hard to bring jobs to Cape Breton Highlands-Canso in Nova Scotia, the economically depressed riding he represents. But recently the external affairs minister's efforts to move the Nova Scotia Nautical Institute (NSNI) from Halifax to Port Hawkesbury in his riding 200 km away have sparked resistance from many of the 600 merchant seamen who now attend the school each year. At the same time, Opposition Tories are outraged at a Canada Post plan to move an office servicing stamp collectors from Ottawa to the Nova Scotia university town of Antigonish. The post office is already looking for 80 to 100 new employees in two counties that fall largely within MacEachen's riding.



Nautical institute students, a big federal grant if the school moves from Halifax

In his home riding MacEachen is legendary for his ability to bring in federal largess. Last year alone his riding received 40 per cent of federal grants given to Nova Scotia under Ottawa's special Employment Initiatives Program, a job creation project that opposition members have labelled a Liberal slush fund. But the mayors of Halifax and Dartmouth view Ottawa's decision to infuse the NSNI with $15 million for new premises—provided that it moves to MacEachen's riding—as one more blatant example of favoritism. MacEachen and Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan announced plans to relocate the provincially operated school in Cape Breton last July, but resistance to the move formed only recently.

NSNI urgently needs new quarters. Every year more than 600 cadets and merchant seamen on their shore leaves study engineering and navigation in the cramped, inadequate classrooms of old Halifax waterfront barracks. To ease the crowding, the provincial government had planned to shift the school across the harbor to Dartmouth. But after two years of quiet negotiations MacEachen and Nova Scotia Culture and Recreation Minister Billy Joe MacLean produced a different financial deal. As well as paying for most of the construction costs of a new school which would be located in Port Hawkesbury, Ottawa agreed to provide an additional $4 million to help restore the historic Shubenacadie Canal in Dartmouth. Alexa McDonough, the leader of the provincial New Democrats, was the only member of the 52-seat legislature who spoke out against the transfer. "It is a decision based on political patronage, wheeling and dealing," she declared.

The efforts to keep the institute in affluent Halifax have annoyed Port Hawkesbury Mayor Almon Chisholm. "That is typical Halifax selfishness," he declared. According to Chisholm the new school, with 1,500 students and 70 instructors, would boost the economically depressed port and form "the basis of a new growth within our community." Chisholm is hoping that revenue from offshore oil will eventually reduce Port Hawkesbury's more than 30-percent unemployment level. But until that happens, everyone in Cape Breton will continue to support MacEachen's efforts—no matter how outsiders regard them. —MICHAEL CLUGSTON *in Halifax*



Turner in Calgary: attracting new members as the bandwagon starts rolling again

Turner's rivals take hope

The campaign for the Liberal leadership swung into the West last week as John Turner struggled to regain his confidence and momentum after a start plagued by disorganization and strategic blunders. At a rally in Edmonton, Liberal mayor Laurence Decore surveyed the rare crowd of supporters in traditionally hostile territory and observed playfully that "The telephone booth," supposedly the meeting place for scarce Liberals, "is getting a lot bigger these days." And, in Calgary, Turner drew an impressive 1,000 supporters—more than double the number who turned up for a recent annual party meeting. The warm welcome reassured Turner organizers, who admit that their candidate has been stumbling between two campaign styles—imperial and low key—and that their organization is chaotic. Turner seemed to tacitly acknowledge those problems when he told 200 students at the University of British Columbia, his alma mater, "We are going to train you and retrain me."

Turner's campaign swing was so threatening to the traditional Conservative stronghold in the West that it provoked a surprisingly tough outburst from Tory Leader Brian Mulroney. Also in the West to generate support, Mulroney attacked Turner for his eight-year absence from politics. Said Mulroney: "The Liberal party has ruined, has devastated, the economy of Western Canada and, while this was going on, Turner was sitting on the sidelines. He never once protested. He never once spoke up for Western Canada." Still, Turner's message, although short on specifics and packed with platitudes, was clearly what the West wanted to hear. He promised to eliminate irritants in the National Energy Program and cut the federal deficit, and he stressed the importance of multiculturalism in an area where voters traditionally resent the federal emphasis on bilingualism.

Turner's wooing of the West was a crucial part of his strategy to recover from three weeks of campaign difficulties. Earlier in the week Turner faced the disclosure that Revenue Canada claims Sandoz (Canada) Inc., a pharmaceutical company based in Dorval, Que., of which he is chairman, owes taxes on the sale of imported goods it had undervalued. "It is not a big deal," declared Turner. "I think the total dispute over small items is about $9,000." Then, the evident confusion in Turner's campaign team gave his five leadership rivals fresh hope as they tried to get organized before delegate selection meetings begin across the country this weekend. "What is very encouraging is that only two weeks ago people were talking about a coronation," declared a key adviser to Energy Minister Jean Chrétien. "And today people are talking about a horse race." Chrétien supporters say that he has managed to get all of his organization in place and that last week they mailed out 7,000 brochures to potential delegates. In Quebec, riding presidents said they had already received telephone calls from Chrétien himself but complained that they had yet to hear from Turner. And at the former finance minister's headquarters several key aides admitted that incomplete organization had led many volunteers to believe that Turner was ignoring their offers of help. Said one key backer: "There are 10 chiefs and no plan." Added another Turner insider: "We are paying a hell of a price for a standing start. Everybody is doing what should have been done at least a week earlier."

But contributions to Turner's campaign continue to arrive. Although the former finance minister will likely spend the most money on the leadership contest, Warren Chippindale, a chartered accounts executive and national chairman of the candidate's fund-raising committee, insisted that the total would be well under the party's $1.6-million spending limit for each candidate. And, in a jab at his rivals, Turner aides noted that their man does not have access to free airline passes or government telephone lines. Last week four of the five ministers trying to replace Pierre Trudeau admitted that they were using free Air Canada passes to travel across the country to boost their causes. Only Economic Development Minister Donald Johnston argued that campaign use of the cabinet privilege is improper.

The cabinet ministers who are trying to cut his lead also have less money to spend on the contest than Turner does. Both Chrétien and Johnston estimate that they will need $1 million, while Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan believes his costs will fall between $500,000 and $1 million. For his part, Employment Minister John Roberts, who has urged his competitors to practise austerity, is aiming for a $750,000 campaign, and Indian Affairs Minister John Munro hopes to finish the race for $600,000. At the moment, however, those figures are merely projections, since none has raised all the money needed for the contest.

Turner's rivals know that if he quickly regains his political reflexes after an awkward start, it will be difficult for them to attract the money that will help them overcome his impressive early lead. And with the Turner bandwagon rolling again late last week, they have only 11 weeks of campaigning before the mid-June leadership convention to overtake him. —MARY JANIGAN *in Ottawa, with Gordon Legge in Calgary*



MacDonald as the tax deadline approached and the Tories closed in, a new job

Auditing Ottawa's taxmen

Among Ottawa's faceless bureaucrats, Bruce MacDonald, the deputy minister of taxation, stood out. He had a reputation for being a stern, strong-willed man. Since 1977 he carried the massive 18,000-member taxation branch of National Revenue on his shoulders while six cabinet ministers came and went. When the department became the target of relentless Tory criticism last fall, it was MacDonald, not Revenue Minister Pierre Bussières, who put up the most spirited defence of the government's sometimes heavy-handed tax collection practices. But last week, to the surprise of almost no one, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau shunted the crusty 60-year-old veteran to the post of special adviser to the Privy Council and replaced him with Harry Rogers, a low-key former Ford and Xerox executive who has been the comptroller-general for the past six years.

The bureaucratic shuffle, designed to relieve pressure on the tax department during its peak period, only set off a new round of controversy. "MacDonald is being used as a sacrificial lamb," protested Conservative MP Chris Speyer of Cambridge, Ont., who launched his party's attack on Revenue Canada four months ago. In quick succession six of his parliamentary colleagues demanded Bussières' resignation, forcing Trudeau to his feet to defend the beleaguered minister. "Perhaps I should have considered moving MacDonald earlier," Trudeau told the House. But the move came as four Tory MPs and a senator in a hotel a few blocks from Parliament were listening to the last of more than 300 horror tales they have heard from taxpayers across the nation. As the month-long Conservative Revenue Canada Task Force investigation ended, chairman Perrin Beatty, the party's revenue critic, promised to release a scathing report and send it to every accountant, business school, law school and civil liberties organization in the country. "The department is in chaos, and the pressure is going to get worse," predicted Beatty.

It was a daunting prospect for the 52-year-old Rogers. Although he has been in government for six years, Rogers is still regarded as an outsider by most politicians and public servants. He came to the capital as the country's first comptroller-general, and it was his job, as resident efficiency expert, to set up performance standards to ensure that taxpayers were getting their money's worth. Now, as the country's top taxman, Rogers inherits a department that is feared and mistrusted by the public and under relentless scrutiny by the opposition parties.

While the critics sharpen their knives, the tax department is struggling to keep up with the 17 million tax returns flooding in at a rate of almost half a million a day. The Liberals are still struggling to get Parliament's authority to borrow the $29.5 billion they need for the coming fiscal year. The opposition parties last week blocked a government request for a $4-billion contingency fund to pay Ottawa's crush of April bills. That could mean delayed tax refunds and frayed tempers across the country. —CAROL GOAR *in Ottawa*

Bennett's call for labor peace

At the height of protests over threatened civil service cutbacks last fall, British Columbia Premier William Bennett appeared on television and successfully appealed to the province's powerful union movement for a cooling-off period. Bitter labor disputes are threatening British Columbia again, and Bennett repeated the formula last week—with one significant difference. This time his televised speech was an edict, not an appeal. First, Bennett announced that his government would legislate an end to an eight-week lockout in the pulp and paper industry. That would send 12,700 pulp workers back to the mills and end a dispute that has cost the province $10 million a day in lost wages, sales and revenues. Then Bennett added another challenge. He threatened to cancel Expo 86, the world fair scheduled to be held in downtown Vancouver, unless unionized construction workers agreed to work with unorganized labor on the $3.6-billion job site.

Bennett's 30-minute address contained few surprises but it introduced the latest slogan of the Social Credit government—"The New Reality." Bennett studded his speech with the phrase to underline British Columbia's need to be competitive, an attractive place for investment and a reliable supplier of goods and services. The reason for Bennett's theme was clear: the pulp and paper dispute has seriously affected sales worth more than $1 billion annually in the U.S. market. Bennett said that he would appoint a mediator in the contract talks between the two unions and 14 companies involved and warned that the government would impose a settlement if the two sides did not reach an agreement.

Bennett's threat to cancel Expo 86 may be nothing more than an attempt to unnerve organized labor, but business and labor alike are taking it seriously. The construction unions said after the speech that they would like to see organized labor building Expo 86 but they are willing to work with unorganized labor if everyone gets the same negotiated wage rates. For his part, Bennett gave the unions until the end of this week to reach an agreement with Expo officials that includes a ban on strikes. If his formula of threats and appeals does not work, Bennett may have to make another televised speech—and risk pushing organized labor to a real confrontation.

—JANE O'HARA *in Vancouver*



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An uncertain election result

By Ross Laver

If the political stakes had not been so high, last week's presidential elections in El Salvador would have rated dismissal as a comedy of errors. Long lineups at polls, widespread power blackouts and a U.S.-designed voting system too complex for a nation burdened with a 60-per-cent illiteracy rate transformed the simple act of marking a ballot into an arduous, daylong ordeal for many voters. The result was as predictable as it was inconclusive: neither of the two top finishers won a majority of the 1.1 million votes. That will force a runoff election, probably on May 6.



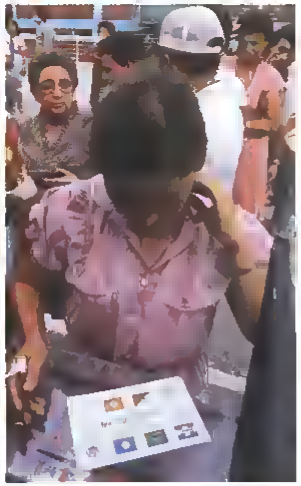
PHOTOGRAPH BY DEREK DEDINO

Voters crowd a Salvadoran polling station; woman with ballot: little relief from war

With the country's four-year-old civil war serving as a backdrop, political handicapping in El Salvador is always risky. But most observers interpreted last week's vote as putting second-round victory within reach of 58-year-old José Napoleón Duarte. A Christian Democrat who promises to bring extreme right-wing death squads under control and open talks with left-wing rebels, Duarte captured 45 per cent of the popular vote. Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of the ultraconservative Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), was second with just over 30 per cent, followed by Francisco Guerrero of the centre-right National Reconciliation Party at about 20 per cent.

By week's end both major candidates were actively wooing supporters of El Salvador's many splinter parties. Duarte, clearly disappointed that the landslide he wanted did not materialize, kept up a brave front, commenting, "We would have won by a wider margin were it not for the failure of the system." D'Aubuisson adopted a conciliatory stance far removed from the violent rhetoric that marked his campaign. Congratulating Duarte, he added, "At no point are we going to forget that there is a force that follows the Christian Democrats which is fully representative."

The outcome left Guerrero, a lawyer with ties to El Salvador's business and military establishment, in the role of kingmaker. A self-proclaimed moderate known for his willingness to bend to U.S. policy, the 56-year-old politician is, on the surface, far closer to Duarte's centrist position than the 40-year-old d'Aubuisson's rabid anticommunism. But Guerrero's middle-class supporters also nurse a historic loathing for Duarte, whom they see as consumed by a craving for personal power. So far, Guerrero has refused to discuss his preference, perhaps because he doubts that he can deliver his rank and file.



For all their differences, the rival candidates agreed that the complicated voting procedures, intended to prevent fraud, provoked chaos instead. Allegations of ballot stuffing were rare, leading three Canadian electoral observers to conclude that the results "broadly reflect the wishes of the people." But all eight parties accused the country's electoral commission of administrative bungling, charging that tens of thousands of Salvadorans had been disenfranchised because of errors in the 25,000-page computerized voters' register. "The elections were a scandal," ARENA spokesman Juan Ramírez said. "The commission was handed millions of dollars by the United States to provide the freest and fairest election possible, and this is what we end up with." However, a secret study commissioned by the U.S. Agency for International Development had warned that the elaborate system would result in a significantly lower total vote than in the 1982 Constituent Assembly elections.

The experience that voters endured in Soyapango, a grimy, working-class suburb of San Salvador, was typical. Three hours after the vote was due to start in one neighborhood, election officials had still not arrived. Impatient voters had to line up under a blistering sun. Finally, representatives of the eight parties organized their own poll, using cardboard boxes to hold the ballots. It was just as well, because, when the authorities arrived, they had no official ballot boxes. Worse, the electoral register they carried was incomplete. Francisco Marinero, who was unable to vote despite an eight-hour wait, protested: "I am 63 years old. Nearly all my life has been spent under military dictatorships. I want to vote for democracy before I die."

Other Salvadorans spent election day dodging bullets. At Tejutepeque, 29 km northeast of San Salvador, an estimated 1,000 left-wing insurgents wiped out a 30-man army garrison. The government said that there had been no voting in 31 of 261 municipalities. Still, President Ronald Reagan lavishly praised "those valiant people [who] braved guerrilla violence and sabotage to do what we take for granted: cast their votes for a president."

The week's events bolstered Reagan's chances of winning congressional approval for $61.7 million in emergency military aid for El Salvador. Senator Edward Kennedy and other liberals alarmed by El Salvador's marauding death squads have drawn up amendments to slash the package to $21 million. Complained Kennedy: "The Senate is being asked to support the Reagan administration policy of more guns, more bullets, more war. It is time for us to call a halt." But Kennedy's protests were to no avail. Late last week the Reagan package had received tentative Senate approval, although it faces rough seas in the House this week.

Whatever the outcome of next month's runoff, Salvadorans can expect little relief from the civil war that has already claimed as many as 50,000 lives. As the vote counting continued, the right-wing Secret Anti-Communist Army threatened to punish those responsible for last week's voting chaos. Scoffed Ruben Zamora, a former leader of the Christian Democrats who now serves the political wing of the revolutionary movement: "These elections in El Salvador have not been about power, but who will be president. That is not the same thing." At a press conference in Mexico City, Zamora added, "The decisions will still be taken by the army high command and the U.S. Embassy." In his view, the presidential election that really counts is the one in the United States in November.

With Paul Ellman in San Salvador, William Lowther in Washington and Peter Chapman in Mexico City



FOTOPRESS/PICTURE GROUP

Mondale campaigning in New York: exploiting the president's record

THE UNITED STATES

Reagan's re-election plans

The U.S. presidential campaign, which began in late February and will not end until November, is frequently judged an unwieldy process—too long, too exhausting and too expensive. But it does afford voters the chance to test the candidates for serious character flaws. Last week, as Senator Gary Hart refuelled his bid for the Democratic nomination by winning the Connecticut primary, no one was monitoring that testing process more carefully than President Ronald Reagan's White House staff. The opinion polls in this topsy-turvy political season show the Colorado senator with a healthy lead over the president.

While the Democrats—Hart, former vice-president Walter Mondale and Rev. Jesse Jackson—campaigned for this week's crucial New York primary (252 delegates), Republican tacticians were mulling over a double-edged strategy for Reagan's re-election.

Reagan: Hart or Mondale?



SIGAN/GAMMA LIAISON

Until Hart's surprise primary win in New Hampshire, most Republicans had assumed Mondale would breeze to a first-ballot nomination. The Hart phenomenon has rendered that scenario obsolete. Still, the Republicans would prefer to face Mondale. The White House concedes that Mondale has experience—four years as former president Jimmy Carter's deputy, 13 years in the Senate—and that his personal integrity is above reproach. But Reagan has similar assets. Mondale's strong record on human and civil rights is superior to Reagan's, but that is not an issue Republicans consider likely to decide the election.

Moreover, GOP strategists believe that several major handicaps could cripple Mondale's candidacy. He bears the stigma of the Carter years—inflation and energy crisis at home, impotence abroad. Despite Reagan's image as a patron of the wealthy, Republican television commercials would emphasize Mondale's ties to organized labor, teachers and other "special interests," depicting him as being so burdened by promises that he is incapable of independent action. Meanwhile, Reagan's decision at week's end to formally end U.S. involvement in the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon may help to bury embarrassment over the president's Middle East policy failures. Finally, as the disciple of the late senator Hubert Humphrey, Mondale retains a reputation for big-spending

liberalism. Reagan would again be running against his favorite targets—intrusive government and often poorly executed social programs.

Where Mondale should be able to score against Reagan is on the fairness issue. Administration programs are widely perceived as benefiting rich over poor, whites over blacks and other minorities, and big business over small. There is also what Mondale last week dubbed "the sleaze factor." The Democratic National Committee last week began airing a tough commercial on the subject. The ad portrayed a serenely smiling president and listed the names of Ed Meese, the attorney general designate, Richard Allen, former national security adviser; Rita Lavelle, an Environmental Protection Agency administrator convicted of lying to a congressional panel, and others who have run afoul of the statutes.

Still, the White House fears a campaign against Hart more than one against Mondale—and with good reason. Hart has no connection to Carter, no obligations to special interests, no voting record as a sponsor of extravagant federal subsidies. Like Reagan, Hart has clothed his campaign in anti-Washington garb, attacking the entrenched interests.

At the same time, Hart, 47, would be the only candidate likely to focus attention on Reagan's age, now 73, as a serious campaign issue. Hail and robust though Reagan is, Reagan, of course, would try to attack, as Mondale has, Hart's voting record and suggest that Hart lacks experience. Indeed, Mondale's aggressive tactics last week turned a prime-time television candidates' debate in New York into a verbal sparring match. Mondale jabbed at Hart's Senate record, his refusal to commit U.S. ground forces to crises in the Persian Gulf or Central America.

Hart replied with his own rally: "Why have you questioned my commitment to arms control and civil rights when you know I have just as much commitment as you do?" The senator also accused Mondale of favoring the use of U.S. Marines in the Middle East or Latin America if necessary.

For now at least, the Republicans have no grand design for running against Hart. They are hoping first that Mondale wins the nomination. And if he does not, they hope that Hart's victory leaves the Democratic party so divided that he will not be able to mount an effective campaign. There is, of course, another option, although remote: a third candidate, a consensus nominee, could emerge, healing the rifts that have developed. In this unpredictable political year nothing is impossible.

—MICHAEL POSNER
in Washington.

CHILE

A new season of discontent

After eight months of relative calm, Chile's political cauldron has begun to boil again. Political groups and labor unions opposed to the decade-long military rule of Gen. Augusto Pinochet last week organized the first national day of protest since August. In a raucous echo of last year's demonstrations in support of a return to democracy, housewives banged pots and pans on their doorsteps. Elsewhere, Chileans boycotted public transportation and closed stores, bringing life in the capital of Santiago almost to a standstill. Although Pinochet declared that security forces had "perfectly controlled" the demonstrations, six people died in clashes with troops and police throughout the country.



Chilean students confront police in Santiago: a raucous echo of last year's protests

The government had tried to head off the demonstrations by reintroducing a state of emergency for the first time since last year. The junta imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on major cities and new measures to curb press freedom. Many observers concluded that the new measures—and the opposition's defiant response—will lead to a further period of confrontation.

The junta said the crackdown was justified by what it claimed was the spread of guerrilla attacks in the past three months. Last week alone, a series of bomb blasts in Santiago's subway system forced authorities to cut service by two-thirds for most of one day. And recent bomb attacks on government-owned electrical stations blacked out a 1,600-km swath up and down the narrow country, including most major cities. Authorities blamed the violence on members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, which has operated sporadically since the 1960s. But opposition leaders countered that the movement lacked the expertise to carry out the well-co-ordinated attacks.

Meanwhile, a new controversy has emerged, involving the Roman Catholic Church. The junta has accused the Vatican's embassy in Santiago of harboring four leftist terrorists since Jan. 16. They say the four are responsible for, among other crimes, last year's assassination of Santiago's military governor. The Vatican has already granted them political asylum. But the Pinochet regime has refused to issue the four exit visas.

As life in Chile returned to normal later last week, opposition leaders claimed that the day of protest had enjoyed broad popular support. That view gained credibility from the fact that the junta gave no indication that it was about to lift the new state of emergency, which runs for 90 days. Santiago's archbishop, Msgr. Francisco Fresno, appealed to both the junta and its opponents to resolve their differences peacefully. But in the present political atmosphere, last week's confrontation seemed a prelude to another season of tension.

—MARY HELEN SPOONER *in Santiago*

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CAR AND DRIVER, *January, 1984*

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CAR AND DRIVER 10 BEST

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MB4-P2

Cracking down on corruption

As Mexico City's chief of police from 1976 to 1982, Arturo Durazo Moreno—known as El Negro, the black one—built a dark reputation for corruption. Although he earned only $65 (U.S.) a week, he managed to buy a $500,000 beach house overlooking the Pacific. Even more surprising, he bought a $24-million estate near Mexico City, which includes an Olympic-size pool, a replica of New York's Studio 54 discotheque and a two-acre, man-made lake. Last week, after the government opened the estate to the public, fascinated Mexicans thronged to view the retreat. Durazo, however, was not there to greet them. Before authorities moved to arrest him on charges of tax evasion, extortion and smuggling, he fled the country. Critics charge that he had received an official tip-off. Said opposition politician Rolando Cordera: "With our political system and its buddy network, that is not surprising."

Last week the search for Durazo spread across two continents. A spokesman for Mexico's attorney general's department, Felipe Flores, said he had asked the Canadian and U.S. governments to extradite him if they could find him, adding, "There are certain elements in the investigation which lead us to believe that he has been in those two countries." In Canada the RCMP staked out the yellow-brick Montreal home of his estranged wife, Sylvia. But she claimed that her husband was in Paris, staying with family members of his lifelong friend, former Mexican president José López Portillo. In France authorities confirmed that one of López Portillo's daughters is a resident but denied knowing where Durazo is. Police in Italy and Spain were also on the alert.

The Mexican authorities are eager to trace Durazo as part of an anticorruption crackdown, a program President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado has loftily dubbed a crusade of "moral renovation." Still, many Mexicans believe that official graft is too widespread to eradicate unless there is a drastic overhaul of the entire political system.

Indeed, de la Madrid's crusade at first seemed destined to fail. Previous administrations' attempts to solve the problem have always succumbed to the greed of authorities. As one cynical office worker explained, "The first two years they talk about corruption, the next two, things just go along, and the last two they take what they can." But after more than a year in office, de la Madrid maintains his reformist fervor. Indeed, it has gathered momentum, fuelled by public outrage over the Portillo administration's reputation as the most graft-ridden in the nation's history. Like his predecessors, upon leaving office López Portillo was much wealthier than he had been at his inauguration.

One of de la Madrid's most daunting challenges has been to purge the administration of Mexico's vital oil industry, which accounts for more than 75 per cent of the nation's export earnings. In January police arrested Jorge Díaz Serrano, the former head of the state-owned oil monopoly, Petróleos Mexicanos, on charges of defrauding the corporation of $34 million. Then, last month the government introduced legislation aimed at curbing the powerful oil workers' union. The bill would tighten rules for awarding government contracts to prevent union executives from routinely siphoning government funds into their own pockets. Still, the government has been reluctant to follow widespread allegations of union corruption with arrests because it needs the cooperation of oil workers to restore the nation's economic strength.

Plans to overhaul the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) are equally delicate. It has traditionally doled out candidacies—a guarantee of election in what is virtually a one-party state—to its influential friends. But in recent years the PRI, partly because of its reputation for graft, has begun to lose ground to the right-wing opposition at the polls. As a result, party president Adolfo Lugo Verduzco has promised that in future would-be candidates will have to earn popular support before they seek nomination.

Still, despite almost weekly announcements of arrests and reforms, Mexicans remain skeptical of the current campaign. A recent opinion poll conducted by the monthly magazine *Contenido* reported that 47 per cent of Mexicans believe the crackdown is really designed to divert attention from the nation's shaky economic state. And many PRI opponents charge that Portillo himself should be called to account for his administration's conduct. Traditionally, former leaders have enjoyed what amounts to immunity from investigation. But Mexicans seem unimpressed by Serrano's arrest or even the international pursuit of Durazo. One Mexico City businessman, echoing a popular view, asked, "How long can we keep going after parts of the body without touching the head?"

—RON BUCHANAN *in Mexico City, with David Baird in Málaga, Marci McDonald in Paris and Anthony Wilson-Smith in Montreal*



CAMERA PRESS/MAI DPP SERVICE

Durazo with portrait of López Portillo: a crusade of moral renovation

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Thatcher with Howe in Brussels; Ganscher: a frosty atmosphere of nationalism

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Battling over the budgets

Across the French countryside last week, scattered mobs of angry farmers protested against cutbacks in milk production and subsidies set by the European Community (EC). The mobs erected barricades, burned tires and toppled trees on major roads. At Portiragnes, a sleepy southwestern town, 30 winegrowers wearing masks set fire to two houseboats owned by a British leasing company. In Lyons 5,000 farmers marched with placards marked "Blow up Margaret Thatcher" and "Dump Thatcher in the sea." They also tore down the Union Jack on a hotel and stamped on it.

The display of ill will was only slightly more belligerent than the political rhetoric. After seven hours of exasperated debate, last week's emergency meeting of the 10-nation EC's foreign ministers in Brussels broke up in an atmosphere of frosty nationalism. The question of Britain's rebate on its annual contributions remained unresolved. Worse, both Britain's prime minister and her opponents have dug in so deeply that concessions to avert the community's slide into bankruptcy are unlikely. Said infuriated West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher: "We have come to the end of the road."

The deadlock seemed all the more serious because an earlier gathering of EC agricultural ministers failed to break an impasse over cuts in milk production. Ireland, which walked out of an EC summit meeting March 20 after other members objected to Dublin's demand for an exemption, had hardened its position in response to violent protests from its dairy lobby at home. But on Saturday the ministers gave way to Ireland's demands, reaching a historic agreement on cutting farm prices for the first time in the EC's history.

Still, the real crisis involved Britain's complaint that its EC budget contribution is roughly $1.7 billion greater than the returns in farm subsidies. Thatcher's bullying tactics have driven her partners to agree to an $850-million rebate, but the offer is still $250 million short of Britain's demand. Complained Dutch Secretary of State for European Affairs Wim van Fekelen: "We are fed up with negotiating with a partner who does not want to move. Most of the time are just afraid of being milked further." British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, however, said his country's concessions were already "formidable and numerous."

With no solution in sight, British officials are now hunting for stronger weapons. Thatcher, after threatening for months to freeze Britain's 1984 EC budget contributions unless she won her case, finally backed down early last week when nervous Conservative ministers made it clear that they would not support such a move. But Thatcher still took her revenge on her EC colleagues. She refused to make a $180-million advance payment on Britain's April contributions which the desperate European Commission, the community's administrative arm, had requested to stave off a cash shortage. By week's end, the commission conceded defeat and withdrew its request.

Before the foreign ministers broke up last week, they scheduled a further meeting for April 9. One glimmer of hope: although the ministers are split over this year's figures, they did agree in principle on a long-term system for calculating national contributions. As well, the farm prices agreement restored a feeling of optimism, although diplomats feared Britain might obstruct agreed special payments to farmers until its rebate dispute is settled. Indeed, few hold out much hope for a quick resolution of that feud before the next EC summit in June. Diplomatic observers say that Thatcher is waging a war of attrition, using her veto to block urgently needed budget reforms while the EC's coffers inexorably run out of money. Once that happens, one British official predicted: "The others will come to us. We are all together in one room. The only way out is through a door to which we have the key."

With bankruptcy looming, community officials are rapidly drafting doomsday scenarios. Still, for all the rhetorical bluster, there are few signs that the war over rebates will ultimately lead to Britain's departure from the EC. Despite her hard-line stand, Thatcher has no wish to jeopardize Britain's access to the community's huge tariff-free market. In the past, tough talk has always ended in compromise. But observers on both sides of the channel fear that, even if the dispute is settled, the bitter taste that remains will sour relations among the 10 for a long time.

—ROSS LAVER *in Toronto, with Marci McDonald in Paris.*

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When **Queen Elizabeth II** and Israeli President **Chaim Herzog** meet in London this week, he will no doubt have something to say about the unusual note struck during the British monarch's recent visit to Jordan. On the first day of her five-day tour, the Queen made a rare and surprising venture into volatile political territory. At a dinner hosted by Jordan's **King Hussein** and his U.S.-born wife, **Queen Noor**, the royal guest referred to the disputed territory on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and spoke of "the tragedy that has befallen the Palestinian people," vowing that the British government "will continue to support all constructive efforts to achieve a peaceful, just and lasting solution." Two days later, in response to Queen Noor's remark that the sight of Israeli jets streaking over the Jordan River Valley was "appalling," Her Majesty added succinctly, "And frightening." Clearly, the modern custom that bars the Queen from making major political statements did not deter her from openly expressing her country's friendship with King Hussein—a matter Herzog may take up over lunch.



GRAHAM SYGMA

Queen Elizabeth and Jordan's King Hussein: 'frightening'

Lesser men might have wept. But for humbled moneyman **Nelson Skalbania** and **Peter Pocklington**, the millions of dollars they have lost in the past few years were merely grist for banter. Speaking to some 800 businessmen and women in Edmonton at a forum billed "Profit From the Past," the two once high-flying entrepreneurs mused over mistakes and laughed over losses. "Looking back, I thank God I didn't have every business cross-collateralized and cross-guaranteed. I am still quite healthy and wealthy," said Pocklington. But the former owner of the Fidelity Trust Co. and Patrician Land Corp., who unsuccessfully ran to succeed Joe Clark as federal Tory leader, readily admitted having suffered major losses: $13 million on a professional soccer team, $15 million in an oil drilling company and untold millions in real estate transactions. Similarly bloodied, Skalbania, former owner of the Montreal Alouettes, also remains unbowed, although he admitted, "I should have put some away." Still paying off his old debts, Skalbania recently borrowed $45 million in the United States for new business ventures. But he has clearly learned some lessons from bankruptcy. His advice to one earnest young man was, "Work hard, work seven days a week and borrow a lot of money—without signing for it."

Pocklington (left), Skalbania: 'still healthy and wealthy'



HONCU/EDMONTON JOURNAL

Award-winning novelist **Sondra Gotlieb**, the high-profile wife of Canada's ambassador to Washington, **Allan Gotlieb**, has kept her writing skills sharp lately by composing a gossipy column for *The Washington Post* on the travails of elegant living abroad. Although the external affairs department officially smiles on Gotlieb's extracurricular efforts, not everyone shares that view. "It is not what the wives of ambassadors are supposed to do," explained embassy spokesman **Patrick Gossage**. "Some people are slightly miffed." That is diplomatic understatement at its best. Gotlieb's "Dear Beverly" column, carried by several Canadian papers, including the Ottawa *Citizen*, has become the model for a vitriolic parody now making the rounds of External Affairs offices in Ottawa. The as-yet-undiscovered authors of the bogus column poke fun at everyone from Rockliffe socialites to U.S. politicos ("They're so provincial, aren't they?"), but the object of the satire is Gotlieb (her column, they say, makes the department "look ridiculous"). External Affairs Minister **Allan MacEachan** reportedly finds the matter uproariously funny, but Undersecretary **Marcel Massé** has launched an investigation. "Mr. Ambassador" and "the wife of" could not be reached for comment, but Gossage said that the ambassador was not amused.

Gotlieb in Washington: not amused



ART STEIN



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Birth of a Bay Street giant

By Peter C. Newman

Bay Street's cozy club of investment dealers, already agonizing about the Toronto Dominion Bank's cut-rate brokerage service, is about to feel the earth move. Details remain obscured in secrecy, but an international investment bank with a capital base nearly twice the size of Wood Gundy or Dominion Securities Ames—the industry leaders—is in the process of being incorporated. Gordon Capital Corp., a new private venture, will have initial equity of about $100 million, compared to Wood Gundy's current capitalization of $54 million. It will inaugurate a new style of underwriting which will discount by 50 per cent the rates charged by the syndicates of traditional "banking groups" that have dominated Canadian finance since the building of the CPR. The new development will not affect the small investor because the new group will limit its business to institutional customers. What Gordon Capital's founders have set out to do is circumvent existing regulations, through entirely legal means, to create Canada's largest investment house. The effect of their audacious move will be to alter totally the way corporate money is raised in Canada.

At the same time, if Gordon Capital's proposals are approved by the industry's regulatory agencies, it plans to introduce an impressive international dimension to Canadian financing through its partnership with Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, Belgium's second-largest holding company. Part of a megaconglomerate whose holdings include Radio Luxembourg, the largest commercial broadcast house in Europe, Bruxelles Lambert's ownership is split among Paul Desmarais, chairman of the Montreal-based holding company Power Corp., Baron Léon Lambert, Belgium's leading venture capitalist, Anders Wall, chairman of Volvo, and Albert Frère, the Walloon steel czar.

This week the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC), directors of the Investment Dealers Association and governors of the Toronto Stock Exchange are evaluating the Gordon Capital proposals. According to an industry insider, the initial reaction of the three organizations was stunned realization that, as revolutionary as Gordon Capital's plans may be, they probably fall within the letter (if not entirely the spirit) of existing regulations—and that there is no way to defuse the threat to existing structures. That will probably hold true even though the new company, for the first time in any Canadian investment house, will split its functions as a raiser of capital (which falls outside most of the OSC regulations) and as a distributor of securities (which remain closely regulated).



Toronto bank towers: circumventing existing regulations through legal means

The new venture is the brainchild of Neil Baker, a discreet investor who heads the relatively unknown Winnipeg Supply and Fuel Co., and Jim Connacher, a former Wood Gundy analyst who purchased a seat on the Toronto Stock Exchange for $65,000 in 1970. Each owns 20 per cent of Toronto-based Daly Gordon Securities, a low-profile bro-



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ALCAN

kerage firm which last year accounted for an estimated 13 per cent of the total transactions on the Toronto Stock Exchange, topping all other contenders

Connacher, who is a first cousin of Liberal leadership contender John Turner's wife, Geills, has threatened to fire any member of his staff who gives reporters an interview. Baker, who started in business managing the investment portfolios of Peter and Edward Bronfman—the owners of an empire which includes Brascan, Labatt's, Royal Trustco and the Toronto Blue Jays—once bought for his own account about 10 per cent of Hiram Walker distilleries (a holding worth more than $80 million) and is one of the least-known but most astute big-money men in Canada. Both partners enjoy parading their ostentatiously anti-establishment cast of mind. Their new operation has its headquarters in the penthouse suite of Toronto's TD Tower, formerly occupied by the bank's Eskimo art collection.

Even before the current deal took shape, Connacher and Baker had built Gordon Securities into one of Canada's most profitable brokerage firms, specializing in trading large blocks of shares; last year they absorbed the small but also highly lucrative R.A. Daly & Co. bond house. (During the first seven months of 1983 the combined companies traded $4.3 billion in stocks and bonds.)

At the same time, without anyone particularly noticing, Gordon Securities invaded the underwriting business, which manages the issuing of new shares and debentures, once the exclusive stalking ground of the old-line firms. Some of the most prestigious companies in Canada have abandoned their long-standing underwriting houses to take advantage of the Connacher-Baker panache. Gordon Securities was the lead underwriter for Bell Canada's purchase of control in TransCanada PipeLines last December. "Bell has been the most conservative member of the old boys' club," Baker remarked to a friend at the time. "So, in terms of credibility, the fact that they asked us to handle the TransCanada issue—and that Wood Gundy and Dominion Securities worked for us on that one—was like the pontiff putting out his hands in blessing."

If the proposed Gordon Capital Corp. clears the regulatory hurdles, Baker and Connacher plan to invade the underwriting field with rate-cutting on a grand scale. Because Gordon's has such low overhead (120 employees to Wood Gundy's 1,400), it will charge only about a two-per-cent commission fee on new underwriting, compared with the industry's average of more than four. Instead of the usual turnaround of three months, the new firms would pay [illegible] week. That would be made possible by their intention to purchase all issued shares or bonds outright on their own account for later distribution to sales agents. (In 1982 Gordon Securities completed a debt financing of $75 million for Gulf Canada in five working days.) "We will price a deal on Friday afternoon and complete it on Monday morning," Baker said recently. "We are determined to drive a wedge into the comfortable, take-your-time, let's-have-a-whole-new-bunch-of-meetings attitude of the cartel now handling



JOCK EVANS

Baron Lambert: $45 million from abroad

most new financing." When Russ Harrison, chairman of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, looked at the Gordon Securities operations recently, he told the directors of Westmin, the oil and mining arm of the Toronto-based natural resource company Brascade, "There is no one left in the Canadian establishment who can afford to ignore the competitive flavor of these guys."

Another wrinkle Connacher and Baker eventually plan to introduce into Canadian finance is a variation of the "shelf registrations" available for some companies in the United States. Ac[illegible] can keep on file the required financial data with the Securities & Exchange Commission and, when the moment seems right, they can launch a new issue with only a few hours' notice. The key will be the unique format of the proposed Gordon Capital charter. The company will be incorporated specifically to carry out all aspects of investment banking that do *not* fall under registration requirements. That includes private placements (any issue sold in multiples of more than $97,000), managing underwritings, acquiring securities for their own account for sale through the registered sales forces of other investment houses, and mergers and acquisitions.

The most lucrative departure will be public offerings abroad. An internal Gordon Securities memorandum to staff outlining the firm's international prospects states: "If the foreign dealer is careful not to engage in aspects of the trade in Canada, then it may participate in a distribution of Canadian securities without registration in Canada. This would typically be accomplished by a Canadian dealer acting as an underwriter on the prospectus (if any) and working in conjunction with a foreign dealer to assist in the distribution. It may also be accomplished without a Canadian registered dealer if the transaction takes place entirely abroad and if the participants are careful to prevent the securities from coming to rest in Canada."

The Canadian firm's formula for foreign participation in its ownership is probably the trickiest part of the whole deal. Because no foreign group can own more than 10 per cent of a registered Canadian brokerage house, Baker and Connacher have concocted a complicated formula which will allow their European partners to own a greater percentage of the firm's activities that fall outside Canada's regulatory agencies. That will smooth the way for the Groupe Bruxelles Lambert to put up $45 million of the required new capital while getting only a 10-per-cent voting interest in the new company.

The Brussels-based conglomerate made the headlines early in 1982 when its partners put together the consortium that spirited away the main assets of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas just before President François Mitterrand's nationalization of French banking assets. The Lambert group is in turn controlled by Pargesa, one of Switzerland's largest holding companies. Established in the fall of 1981, Pargesa had attained assets of 5.9 billion Swiss francs by the end of 1983.

The full implication of Gordon Capital's daring initiative has yet to hit. But Jim Connacher and Neil Baker are about to take on the old boys' club. And [illegible]

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The fierce airplane wars

"We're in a permanent state of war," declared Bernard Lathière, president of the European-based aircraft builder Airbus Industrie. And although Lathière may have overstated his case, there was no disputing that the international competition for commercial aircraft sales among the world's dominant manufacturers has erupted into an outright battle.

After the sales drought of the past three years, there is now vigorous competition for aircraft sales in markets from Europe to the Middle East and, for prospective buyers, ever-more attractive financing packages and fringe benefits. A major reason for the intensity of the rivalry is the entry into the market of Airbus and its line of commercial aircraft. Created in 1970 by a consortium of French, British and West German manufacturers, Airbus not only finds itself in the running for a major share of $150 billion (U.S.) worth of new aircraft spending projected for the next 10 years, but it may also succeed in challenging the United States for supremacy of the world's aircraft markets. The reason: with Lockheed Corp. out of contention now and once-dominant McDonnell Douglas Corp. a much-reduced force, the aggressive government-backed Airbus finds itself with only one leading competitor—the Boeing Commercial Airplane Co. of Seattle. But Boeing is anything but a pushover. Indeed, the industry giant vows to maintain the 50- to 60-per-cent slice of the world's market it has held in recent years. Warned E.H. Boullioun, a Boeing senior vice-president: "We're going to get our share."

One of the hottest battlegrounds is India. Air India, an international carrier, and Indian Airlines, a domestic operator, plan to spend a total of $4 billion (U.S.) to upgrade their fleets, and Boeing and Airbus are sparring bitterly for the deals. While an official government report recommended the purchase of Boeing's two newest models, the 757 and the 767, the two airlines seem far from a decision. Instead, the recommendation has sparked another round of bidding that ultimately will mainly benefit the air carriers. Not only have Airbus and Boeing apparently offered price cuts, but the sales pitches also involve a complex series of sweeteners such as deals on spare parts, flight crew training and trade-ins.

Airbus, however, has also introduced a new element to the equation. In India as well as other markets, the new challenger has enhanced the attractiveness of its traditional pricing practices with special financing packages to ease the pain of purchase. Because a single aircraft can cost more than $100 million, the move is a powerful sales tool. Indeed, Boeing has now reluctantly joined Airbus in offering prospective customers financial deals.

Whatever the outcome of the Indian deal, it is unlikely that the bidding war will soon end. For one thing, Airbus's European owners are likely to suffer politically if production tapers off and workers are laid off. In fact, to keep its factories running at capacity, Airbus currently has an inventory of about 21 completed airplanes that it has yet to sell. (By comparison, the much bigger Boeing plant has no new unsold aircraft on its tarmacs, although the company still has on hand six Lockheed L-1011s it recently obtained on trades.) But neither maker is immune to the financial pressures to make deals at any cost, especially when faced with the need to recoup the enormous start-up costs associated with new jetliners. (Analysts estimate that Boeing spent between $2 billion and $4 billion before the first 757s and 767s went into production.)

Beyond the deal-making frenzy, the emergence of a strong European producer also has propelled politics into the aerospace wars. Airbus gained a successful string of deals in the Middle East and Asia, partly because of the anti-U.S. inclinations of various customers.

Still, total cost, including financing, ultimately is the major factor in most deals. Said Robert Joedicke, an aircraft financing specialist with Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb Inc. in New York: "You can buy your way into the market. It's the same old story—throw money at your customers and they'll all sit up and take notice."

—IAN AUSTEN *in Toronto, with Marci McDonald in Paris*



Boeing's 767 assembly area: U.S. aircraft makers face a major challenge from aggressive European competitors

Saskatchewan seeks investors

Saskatchewan residents have a well-earned reputation for frugality. On a per capita basis they have $11,100 in savings, compared to the national average of $8,200 and they easily surpass the $9,950 saved by citizens of the second most penny-conscious province—Ontario. But on March 21 the province launched an investment program to entice its security-conscious citizens to part with their cash and invest in small-business ventures. Finance Minister Robert Andrew unveiled a venture capital scheme that will offer investors the lure of a handsome tax break if they funnel their money into venture capital firms. In turn, the companies will feed the funds into the province's cash-starved small-business sector. Declared Andrew: "There are a lot of people with good business ideas but who lack the money to pursue them. We hope this will uncap the well."

Provincial government involvement in venture capital schemes is not new. Similar progrsms are already under way in both Quebec and Ontario. In fact, the Saskatchewan plan is modelled on the one that Ontario set up in 1979, which, so far, has helped produce 550 venture capital companies—among them, a money-losing venture, Infinitum Growth Fund Inc., chaired by Liberal leadership contender John Turner (*Maclean's*, March 19). The Saskatchewan plan offers a 30-per-cent provincial income tax credit to investors who place their money in a Venture Capital Corp. (VCC). The VCC then invests the funds in small businesses that meet certain criteria: they must employ fewer than 75 workers and be engaged in specified sectors, such as manufacturing and processing, tourism, and research and development.

The Saskatchewan government is hoping that the latest investment scheme will propel a new type of investor to the forefront. For Saskatchewan's VCCs to succeed, investors will have to abandon their conservative style. Said Graham Walker, deputy chairman of Pemberton Houston Willoughby Inc. in Regina: "There is no doubt that Saskatchewan people, especially farmers, are cautious investors. Farmers take a big risk every spring when they put their crops in, and the average farmer is not one to take a risk with his investment income." The government can only hope that healthy tax breaks will be enough to shake money loose from the province's savings accounts and mattresses.

—DALE EISLER *in Regina*



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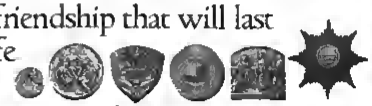
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Hospital for Sick Children, Nelles (below); Traynar. it aaamed beyond comprehension that mass murder could heve occurred

COVER/SPECIAL REPORT

THE BABY MURDERS

By Arthur Johnson

The administrators at Toronto's prestigious Hospital for Sick Children were alarmed, and the nurses were frightened. Something had gone terribly wrong in the cardiac ward, and no one knew why. Throughout 1980 and early 1981 babies died in unprecedented numbers at Canada's foremost children's hospital—and the death rate seemed to be accelerating. The administrators ordered studies into the unexpected deaths, and nurses held anxious meetings after work to discuss their fears and apprehensions. Still, everyone hesitated to use the unthinkable word, "murder." Finally, a father's shouting, wall-pounding grief after his son had died unexpectedly on March 12, 1981, set in motion a series of startling inquiries that would prove conclusively that someone—or possibly more than one person—had murdered some of the babies by injecting them with enough of the heart drug digoxin to kill several adults. But, after one of the most exhaustive and dramatic criminal investigations in Canadian history, the question still remains: who did it? The search for the answer to the mystery has captured international attention. Investigators hope that this week's long-awaited appearance before a judicial inquiry by nurse Susan Nelles—she was charged with four of the murders and then discharged at a preliminary hearing—will help them to find an answer to a case that has baffled police for three years.



CANADA WIDE PHOTOS

Tragedy: Nelles's arrest on March 25, 1981, was the beginning of a murder case without parallel in Canada. Her discharge at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing one year later was a sensational development in a tragedy that unfolded in a criminal court and was debated in almost every living room in the country. Since then, the case, amplified by intense and constant media attention, has been marred by bitter accusations and protests from those involved. The nurses insist that they have been subjected to trial by public inquiry. The hospital's administrators worry that the publicity will damage the institution's reputation. And the families demand to know why their babies died (page 40).

The source of the relentless interest was the compelling horror of the crime. No more helpless or innocent victims could be imagined. The babies ranged in age from nine days to 11 months. Some were seriously ill when admitted to the internationally renowned hospital. But some were expected to improve. Instead, while they were being treated on wards 4A and 4B of the cardiac unit, the babies suffered heart failure, could not be resuscitated and died. Police cite the death of Laura Woodcock on June 30, 1980, as the first suspicious case. The last was Justin Cook, three months old, who died on March 22, 1981. In all, investigators examined a total of 43 suspicious deaths. Autopsies on some of the babies showed levels of digoxin in their bodies 30 or 40 times higher than safe levels. Some of the babies had not even been prescribed digoxin. It seemed beyond comprehension that mass murder could have occurred in a world-famous institution devoted to healing children. That it could have gone undetected for nine months seemed beyond reason.

Exhaustive: The investigation has been controversial. Some of the world's foremost medical and legal experts studied the baby killings during four exhaustive investigations, including one that the hospital itself conducted. Yet every probe seemed to raise serious questions about the hospital's diligence in investigating the deaths and the police department's competence in finding the killer. While hospital administrators and nurses became suspicious about the mysterious deaths as early as Sept. 5, 1980, an internal hospital investigation concluded that the deaths were natural among infants with serious heart and other medical problems. Nelles's lawyers charged that Metro Toronto police made a hasty decision to charge her because she refused to answer their questions without a lawyer present. On Dec. 14, 1982, six months after Nelles had been discharged, Ontario Attorney General Roy McMurtry declared that police had additional information on the case and were pursuing new leads. But on Feb. 9, 1983, Police Chief Jack Ackroyd said that there was not enough evidence to justify laying new charges.

The other nurses who cared for the babies on the cardiac ward before they died have also come under close scrutiny since McMurtry ordered an inquiry under Mr. Justice Samuel Grange on April 21, 1983. And nursing staff testimony in recent weeks has been particularly sensational. Late last week Nelles made a surprise appearance. As she sat for five minutes in the audience at the back of the hearing room with John Sopinka, her lawyer, the only television camera in the room was trained on her face. And when she left, reporters and camera crews mobbed her. But recent testimony at the inquiry has turned the focus of media attention on a new subject: Phyllis Trayner, leader of Nelles's nursing team. On Feb. 13 fellow nurse Bertha Bell testified that she saw Trayner inject an unidentified drug into the buretrol (intravenous feeder bottle) of baby Allana Miller around midnight on March 20, 1981. The baby, who had been assigned to Nelles, died at 3:27 a.m. The autopsy showed a large amount of digoxin in her body. According to Bell's testimony, the baby's chart and nursing notes did not record an injection administered by Trayner. A police lawyer said that Bell's information would have changed the course of the police investigation if she had given it when police charged Nelles three years ago. But Bell added that police did not seem interested when she tried to tell them in April, 1981, that Nelles had not even been in the hospital when another baby died from a digoxin overdose. A second nurse, Kathy Coulson, testified that, before Nelles was arrested, she suspected that Trayner was involved in the baby deaths. And other nurses said that Trayner became so obsessed with the deaths that colleagues found it difficult to work with her.



CANADA WIDE PHOTOS

The testimony regarding Trayner has led groups like the Canadian Civil Liberties Union to charge that the inquiry is becoming a trial without the safeguards of the judicial process. Grange has made it clear that his mandate does not include using the word "murder" during the inquiry or when he reports to McMurtry. Indeed, the province's Public Act prohibits him from making any finding of civil or criminal wrongdoing. Still, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled late last week that Grange can name anyone he finds to have administered digoxin overdoses to the babies. The judgment confirmed an earlier ruling by the divisional court that allowed Grange to name names. Ian Scott, a lawyer for the hospital, had argued that Grange was empowered to conduct "an inquiry to find a killer." Said Scott: "If there is a killer and Mr. Justice Grange knows who it is, we want that name. We have an obligation to ensure that that person does not return to work." Lawyer Sopinka complained that although witnesses were giving opinions at the inquiry about who was responsible for the deaths, those people who had been named were not allowed an immediate chance to reply. Said Sopinka: "These are personal opinions without factual basis."

Testify: As Nelles takes the stand this week, she will be able to offer her version of events on the cardiac ward for the first time. The small, slight nurse did not testify at her preliminary hearing. On the advice of her lawyers she has made few public statements and has refused most requests for interviews. After her discharge the hospital placed her on paid leave for roughly 2½ years, but since late last year she has worked in the hospital's dialysis unit.

Since last fall Nelles has offered the benefit of her experience in a series of talks to chapters of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. She told one group of nurses in Ajax, outside Toronto, on Nov. 22, "I was hurt by a couple of nurses who made completely subjective statements about me on the witness stand." Still, Nelles told the group that the experience also had a positive effect: it made her more empathetic. Said the nurse: "I'm not so quick in judging my colleagues. I keep my thoughts more to myself than I did in the past."

For Phyllis Trayner the Grange inquiry could be much more of an ordeal. The hospital gave her paid leave after Nelles's arrest, as it did for Nelles, but Trayner has been on maternity leave since giving birth earlier this year. A study by the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control in Georgia reported that Trayner had been on the cardiac ward during or shortly before all of the 28 most suspicious baby deaths. Commission counsel Paul Lamek is likely to question her about her colleagues' comments about her preoccupation with the deaths, and he will certainly ask her to comment on the allegation about administering a

drug that was never recorded.

But, once the nurses have finished testifying, the focus of the inquiry will shift to the conduct of the police investigation of the deaths and the manner in which they charged Nelles. Some nurses have already testified that the investigating officers appeared uninterested in evidence that pointed away from Nelles as the murder suspect. It was only when Judge David Vanek discharged Nelles on May 21, 1982, 14 months after the last suspicious baby death, that police resumed a full-scale investigation at the hospital and conducted a second round of interviews of doctors, nurses and others on the cardiac ward. And hospital administrators will likely be questioned about the diligence of their efforts before Nelles's arrest to uncover the reasons for the deaths.





PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN WILEY/MACLEAN'S

Granga (left); inquiry hearing room: one of the most exhaustive and dramatic criminal investigations in Canadian history

Investigators confronted indications of murder at the Hospital for Sick Children more by accident than by design. As revealed by testimony, the suspicion arose on March 12, 1981, when Dr. Paul Tepperman, one of Metro Toronto's 20 coroners, received a telephone call from a concerned member of the hospital staff. Dr. Rodney Fowler, a senior cardiologist at Sick Kids, had just had an emotion-charged meeting with Kevin Garnett, whose 24-day-old son, Kevin Pacsai, had died that day on the cardiac ward. The child had undergone tests for an abnormally rapid heartbeat, and doctors planned to release him in two days. The grief-stricken Garnett questioned the baby's sudden death and beat the walls of Fowler's office with his fists. That shook Fowler's belief that the baby had died of natural causes. Fowler then called Tepperman to ask whether or not the coroner wanted to investigate the death.

Concerned: Tepperman replied that, whenever a family expresses concern about a death, a coroner can launch inquiries. After noting some details Tepperman ordered that an autopsy be conducted at the hospital. The results revealed no abnormal circumstances. But four days later Fowler called Tepperman to report that his own research indicated that baby Kevin had a digoxin level about 13 times higher than the normal level for a baby being treated with the drug. Then, on March 20, Tepperman received a call from Dr. James Mancer, a staff pathologist at the hospital, who became concerned after hearing about the high digoxin levels recorded in the baby's autopsy. Before that infant's death Mancer had done an autopsy on four-month-old Janice Estrella after she had died on the cardiac ward on Jan. 11. The results revealed such a high level of digoxin that he thought the laboratory had made a mistake.

Tepperman concluded that it was not a mere coincidence that two sudden deaths had occurred on the same ward involving high levels of digoxin. He was also concerned that the hospital had waited two months before informing him of Estrella's death. In fact, Tepperman was so disturbed that he made several attempts to reach his supervisor, Ontario's chief coroner, Ross Bennett. He finally made contact the next day, Saturday, March 21. Bennett suggested a meeting with hospital officials and officers from the Metro police homicide squad. But when Bennett informed hospital officials later that day of his concerns about the two deaths, he said, "It seemed we were not telling them anything new."

He was also surprised to learn that the hospital had already done a study of 20 deaths on the cardiac ward. Hospital officials said that they had ordered the investigation because of a morale problem among nurses on the ward. Tepperman was not convinced. In an interview he said, "It indicated a lot more was going on than we knew." That night one-year-old Allana Miller died on the cardiac ward with a digoxin level of 72. At 4.56 the next morning three-month-old Justin Cook, who had been in the same room as Allana Miller, died. Homicide detectives then began examining the records of all deaths on the ward in previous months. By Sunday, March 22, laboratory tests revealed that Cook had a digoxin reading of 100—and that the drug had never been prescribed for him. Suddenly, police suspected murder.

Interviews: To allow for time for questioning the homicide detectives decided to give the nursing team on the unit a three-day leave. The nurses were due back on the night of Wednesday, March 25. That day teams of policemen went to the homes of each of the five nurses to interview them.

When a team headed by Sgt. Jack Press arrived at Susan Nelles's apartment, the officers identified themselves as policemen from the coroner's office. However, her roommate, a law student, advised her not to answer any questions without consulting a lawyer if she faced questioning. Officer Press cautioned Nelles that any statement she made would be taken down in writing and could be used in evidence against her. Then, according to Nelles's lawyer, Austin Cooper, Press said: "Okay, Justin Cook died of an overdose of digoxin, a drug he wasn't supposed to have. We believe you gave him the drug and we would like to know why. Do you wish to give any explanation for his being given digoxin?" Nelles replied, "I think I want to speak to a lawyer." Press then arrested her on a first-degree murder charge in the death of Justin Cook. A few days later police also charged Nelles with murdering the Pacsai, Estrella and Miller babies.

Charged: One year later Nelles stood trial at a preliminary hearing that for 44 days focused on testimony by many of her colleagues. Cooper, Nelles's trial lawyer, submitted that the charges had been a horrible mistake. "Who kills little babies anyway without motive?" he asked. "An innocent person has been charged," Cooper told Judge Vanek. But Crown Attorney Robert McGee maintained that Nelles, alone, of the cardiac ward nursing team, had shown signs of "aberrant behavior." He pointed to the evidence of nurse Marie Mandel, who said that Nelles had referred to the fact that four or five deaths had occurred in a period of seven or eight days. Nelles, she said, had commented, "Not a bad record, huh?" And another nurse testified that after one baby died most of the nurses were crying, but Nelles had "a sort of smile." In the end, Vanek discharged her by stating: "There is no direct evidence of any act on the part of Susan Nelles tending to show that she was involved in poisoning these babies by overdoses of digoxin, no evidence either of any suspicious or untoward conduct, of consciousness of guilt or coverup, and all of her actions are perfectly consistent with the due and proper performance of her regular duties as a registered nurse."

In his judgment Vanek said, "We are dealing with an aberrant, twisted, warped personality, someone who poisons babies at a hospital with digoxin, and strange things might be expected to happen." Indeed, witnesses at the preliminary hearing related bizarre stories of threatening telephone calls and strange marks made on doors and lockers. Nurse Elizabeth Radojewski testified that nurses feared a lunatic was loose in September, 1981, when Trayner found pills in her bowl of soup and nurse Sui Scott discovered them in her salad at the hospital. In fact, the pills were propanolol, a heart drug that is supposed to regulate the rhythm of the heart. Trayner testified that in August and September, 1981, she found crosses drawn with what seemed to be red lipstick on her hospital locker, apartment door and car.

But other evidence emerged at the hearing that was much more disturbing. The Crown described 16 other mysterious baby deaths in the cardiac ward and said the cases were "carbon copies" of the four murders with which Nelles had been charged. And as police continued to investigate, the count of possible murders rose.



Sneddan: epidemic of deaths

Vanek's contention that a crazed murderer had been loose in the hospital's cardiac ward was reinforced by a team of expert medical researchers from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, which conducted a detailed analysis of the circumstances surrounding the deaths. According to the CDC report, released in February, 1983, of 36 deaths at the hospital's cardiac wards between July, 1980, and March, 1981, 18 were suspicious. The CDC reported that the 18 deaths might have been caused

Tracing a murder mystery

June 30, 1980: first suspicious death, Laura Woodcock, 18 days old

Summar, 1980: nurses on 4A, including Trayner and Nelles, voice concerns to hospital cardiologists about elevated death rate in ward

Sept. 5, 1980: alarmed cardiologists meet with nurses and hospital officials.

January, 1981: Mortality Review Committee at Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) discusses closer monitoring of babies

March 20, 1981: hospital alerts Toronto coroner Dr. Paul Tepperman, who begins inquiry into deaths

March 21, 1981: Coroner Paul Tepperman calls meeting between hospital officials and homicide squad. The next day police examine nurses' schedules and contents of lockers.

March 22, 1981: last death, Justin Cook, at 4:56 a.m.

March 25, 1981: police interview ward 4A nurses; arrest and charge Nelles.

March 27, 1981: Nelles charged with three additional deaths; police begin investigation into 43 baby deaths.

Septamber, 1981: pills found in nurses' salad and soup.

Jan. 11, 1982: Nelles's preliminary hearing begins.

May 21, 1982: Nelles discharged.

May 25, 1982: Justice Duhin appointed.

Septamber, 1982: Atlanta Centers for Disease Control (CDC) asked to provide analysis of deaths

Jan. 28, 1983: Duhin report released.

Feb. 21, 1983: McMurtry releases parts of CDC report that says seven deaths were murder.

June 21, 1983: Grange commission begins public inquiry.

Jan. 23, 1984: Uncensored version of CDC report released.

April, 1984: Expected end of first phase of Grange commission.

Mid-May, 1984: start of Phase 2 of Grange examination of role of police and HSC.

End of 1984: Grange expected to submit final report.

A gallery of small tragedies

Police estimate that as many as 43 children may have been murdered at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. In successive investigations, however, attention has been concentrated on a handful of the deaths. Among the most significant:

Laura Woodcock
Age 15 days
Died June 30, 1980, 9:40 p.m.
Toronto police termed hers the first suspicious death. And a report by the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said that the death was "consistent with special concern" about digoxin poisoning. But the American report also noted that the digoxin level found in tests was consistent with a dose that doctors had given the baby at another hospital before moving her to the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) and was too low to indicate death by overdose.

John Onofre
Age 15 days
Died Dec. 9, 1980, 4:10 a.m.
Police said that the death was highly suspicious. The Atlanta report said that it was almost impossible to measure accurately digoxin levels in the body, which investigators had exhumed two years after the boy's death. But the report said that the baby's illness should not have caused his death and rated the possibility of digoxin overdose as only one on a scale of five.

Réal Gosselin
Age one month
Died Dec. 15, 1980, 3:15 a.m.
The Atlanta report was inconclusive on the cause of the infant's death. The centre ruled that it was consistent with digoxin overdose, but the probability on the scale of one to five was one.

Stephanie Lombardo
Age 10 days
Died Dec. 23, 1980, 4:20 a.m.
Doctors never prescribed digoxin for the child, but when her body was exhumed 14 months after her death, investigators detected digoxin. The Centers for Disease Control rated the probability of digoxin overdose as four.

Jesse Balangar
Age one month
Died Dec. 26, 1980, 5:10 p.m.
Doctors also never prescribed digoxin for Balanger, but traces of the drug were detected in exhumed tissue. Atlanta's verdict: probability of digoxin overdose was two.

Janica Estrella
Age four months
Died Jan. 11, 1981, 3:22 a.m.
Discrepancies between digoxin levels measured before and after death clouded findings in the Estrella death, according to the CDC report. The child was also severely ill when she entered the hospital. But the cause of death could have been digoxin overdose, with a probability of two on the scale.

Jordan Hinas
Age one month
Died March 8, 1981, 5:25 a.m.
The child had no heart defects. The hospital claimed that he could have died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). But again, digoxin had not been prescribed and it was detected in exhumed tissue samples. A CDC drug expert rated the probability of digoxin overdose as three, while a CDC cardiologist said that the death was not consistent with digoxin.

Kevin Pascal
Age 24 days
Died March 12, 1981, 10:10a.m.
An autopsy revealed no obvious cause of death. Investigators found digoxin in the tissues, and the CDC rated it four on the scale for digoxin.

Kristin Inwood
Age 20 days
Died March 13, 1981, 3 a.m.
The child had severe heart defects but also a high level of digoxin in her blood. The CDC report said that the high level might have resulted from the fact that tissues dry out when they are kept in frozen storage, but the CDC drug expert rated the probability of digoxin overdose at four.

Allans Millar
Age one year
Died March 21, 1981, 3:27 a.m.
Digoxin readings at the baby's autopsy were low, but a CDC drug expert calculated that Miller may have been given digoxin an hour or less before her heart stopped. The CDC rated the chance of digoxin overdose at four.

Justin Cook
Age three months
Died March 22, 1981, 4:55 a.m.
The CDC cited the cause of death as digoxin poisoning and rated it at the top of the scale. It said that someone gave Cook a large intravenous dose of digoxin within an hour before his death.

by digoxin poisoning, could not be explained adequately or were unexpected and inconsistent with the babies' medical records. Of the 18 deaths, the CDC found, digoxin overdoses "probably" caused seven. As well, the report said that Trayner was on ward duty when all 28 of the most suspicious deaths occurred.

Even if the Grange investigation does not eventually point to a killer, the Hospital for Sick Children will never be the same. The facility, which has won an international reputation for the quality of its medical care and its research achievements, has been shaken to its foundations. The hospital was criticized by the Atlante report and by an earlier inquiry into its procedures by Ontario Supreme Court Justice Charles Dubin for failing to spot the epidemic of deaths on the cardiac wards. After the Nelles hearing, Kenneth Rowe, the hospital's assistant administrator, explained why the deaths had gone unreported for so long: "It is not normal for a hospital to think foul play has been expected," he said. Still, as a result of Dubin's recommendations, executive director Douglas Snedden said that the hospital made numerous changes in its procedures. Among them: a unit-dose system for dispensing all drugs in the hospital's pharmacy, a statistical review of hospital deaths, and identification tags for staff and visiting family members.



JAN ELZINGA

Kitely: nurses had become 'sacrificial lambs'

For nurses, the numerous investigations have been a series of agonizing trials. Frances Kitely, the lawyer representing the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario at the Grange inquiry, told a meeting in Hamilton, Ont., in January that nurses had become the "sacrificial lambs" in the affair. And Alison Lehman, the RNAO's liaison officer at the inquiry, declared in an interview last month that nurses had suffered because of an inept police investigation. The remark drew an angry demand for an apology from Metro police lawyer Perevial. He did not get one.

Mystery: Partly as a result of the intense media coverage, the expectations for Grange and his inquiry are enormous. But, given the inconclusive findings of all the previous investigations, it is unlikely that Grange will be able to state categorically what happened. But Grange appears to be the last hope for a solution to the mystery. Said Supt. George Thompson, who is monitoring the inquiry for the Metro Toronto police department: "Everyone is looking for the key and the answer."

But greater understanding can never compensate the parents of the dead children for their tragic loss. Still, the inquiry promises to dispel some of the uncertainty that has haunted the mothers and fathers for three years. Betty Gionse of Mississauga, Ont., spent months trying to find out if her daughter Barbara had been murdered after the child died on March 9, 1981, at the age of two months on the cardiac ward. She still is not sure. Gionse has gleaned two lessons from the tragedy: "Doctors have to be more aware of things that go wrong repeatedly and take steps earlier. Parents have to be more aware and check up on doctors and nurses." As Judge Grange prepares his report on the unsettling affair on the cardiac wards, he may be writing the final chapter in Canada's most widely followed murder mystery. The conclusion of his inquiry will mean the end of three years of painful publicity and criticism for the hospital and its staff. And for the parents of the dead children, he may be able to answer some of their troubled questions. But, unlike the situation in a fictional whodunit, the identity of the killer may never be known.

With Robert Block, Patricia Hluchy and Dave Silburt in Toronto.

Facing the digoxin puzzle

During the three years of investigations into the series of mysterious baby deaths at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, the common therapeutic heart drug digoxin acquired a reputation as a killer as fearsome as cyanide. But testimony last summer by several scientists at Mr. Justice Samuel Grange's commission hearings that suggested excess digoxin may be produced naturally in the body, even after death, cast momentary doubt on whether murder had been committed at all. Now, says the commission's chief counsel, Paul Lamek, uncertainty over the meaning of the digoxin tests on dead infants is simply "no longer a live issue." And, even as some scientists continue to uncover more scientific factors that might lead to increased digoxin readings in the babies, none of the factors can account for the extremely high readings in the cases that have been the focus of investigations.



BRIAN WILLER, MACLEAN'S

Lamek: uncertainty over the meaning of digoxin tests is 'no longer a live issue'

As the Grange commission enters the final weeks of its first phase, the Hospital for Sick Children is now treating digoxin with all the caution and respect due a lethal weapon by locking it away in the pharmacy. Said the hospital's chief administrator, Kenneth Rowe: "We have treated digoxin as a control drug since the event." Secondly, said Steven Soldin, director of the hospital's therapeutic drug monitoring program: "There is probably not a single hospital, other than this one, that is doing digoxin tests routinely on *every* death."

Several factors can obscure the meaning of the results of tests to determine digoxin levels in a body. Soldin and his colleagues have identified "about 10 substances that occur naturally in the body and interfere in the digoxin tests that have been used." But perhaps the most confusing fact is that digoxin levels often rise after death. Explained George Cimbura, deputy director of the Ontario Centre of Forensic Sciences: "It depends on the site of the body from which the sample is taken, but at the very worst, seepage of digoxin from body organs could account for a reading three to four times higher than one taken before death."

Confusing: In a child for whom digoxin is prescribed, however, a normal blood level of the drug is up to three nanograms per millilitre. Post-mortem changes could raise the reading to a maximum of 12—a far cry from the 72 taken from infant Janice Estrella, or the 100 from Justin Cook. Soldin also stressed that the substances he has found so far cannot account for such extreme readings. Commented Bernard Mirkin, director of clinical pharmacology at the University of Minnesota and one of the first to testify at the Grange commission: "Some of those readings were so high it boggled the mind. I do not think one can, in the wildest stretch of the imagination, attribute the deaths of some of those children to errors."

With evidence for a murder suspect so far only circumstantial and with motives for the crime mired in speculation, the weapon at least is firmly in hand. Whatever controversies still remain over the digoxin tests, they have no relevance for three babies who each had enough of the heart drug in them to have killed three healthy adults.

—PAT OHLENDORF *in Toronto*

The continuing anguish of the families

June Hines of Pickering, Ont., cannot face the task of taking her son, Darren, 7, to Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children for treatment of his minor kidney disease. Her husband, Adrian, drives the 35 km to the hospital once every three months. The reason for her unease is that her newborn baby, Jordan, died in Sick Kids' cardiac ward on March 8, 1981, in a rash of still-unsolved infant deaths. She refuses to return even though she insists that she has confidence in the hospital staff members who have been treating Darren for five years. She said that going back revives too many painful memories. The Hines are two of 36 sets of parents who find that even three years after the largely unexplained deaths of their children, they cannot put the tragic loss behind them until they find out how, why and who killed their children.



JIM ELPINGA

Adrian and June Hines; Jordan (below): compelling horror of the crime

Painful: Toronto lawyer Stephen Labow who, with his associate, Morris Manning, represents six families at the Grange commission hearings, summed up the state of the bereaved families. "Their overriding concern throughout has been that they do not know what happened to their children." Labow explained that because of a ban on media publication of evidence during the preliminary hearing of nurse Susan Nelles, and because of continuing police investigations, parents were not kept informed about the details of the case. As well, the conflicting scientific evidence about the detection of digoxin in the bodies has cast doubt on police theories that babies were poisoned. Added Labow: "At this stage they are saying, 'Did my child die because he was so ill,' which is something that anyone could try to deal with, 'or because someone went in there and killed my baby?'"

Labow further explained that lawyers for 10 of the families represented at the Grange commission have opposed the appeal of a Supreme Court of Ontario decision to allow Grange to name any person that he believes caused the deaths. The parents want the names. Labow admitted that any person cited could have his or her chances of a fair trial jeopardized but he argued that the Ontario government established the commission because there was no other way to get at the facts.

Most of the parents avoid media inquiries. And months of press attention have caused others to be reluctant to comment on the case or to have their photograph taken because of distorted reports. Kevin Garnett, for one, of Hamilton, Ont., whose son, Kevin, died at the hospital after only 24 days on March 12, 1981, told *Maclean's* that he would not comment because information that he gave to a local newspaper was reported incorrectly. Dominic Lombardo of Toronto, whose daughter, Stephanie, died at 10 days on Dec. 23, 1980, declined to be photographed. Said Lombardo: "I do not want to walk down the street and have people say, 'This is the guy who lost his child.'" Lombardo said his primary concern was that authorities should bring whoever killed the babies to justice. He dismissed concerns that a fair trial would be jeopardized if Grange named a suspect. Argued the father: "What about the babies? Did they get a fair trial?"



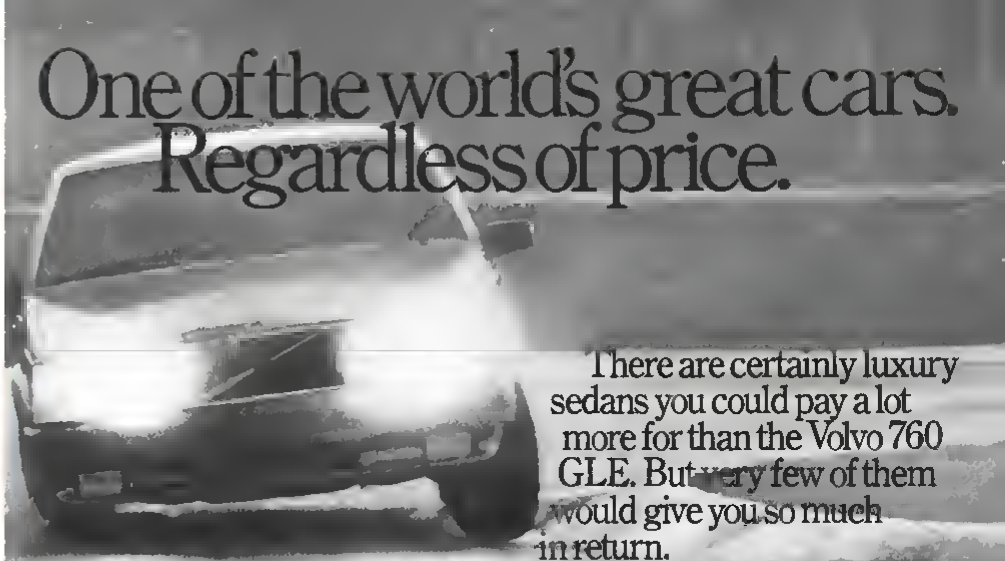
Other parents, including Bradley Cook of Tara, Ont., 185 km north of Toronto, are fatalistic. "What can you do?" he asked. Cook said that the birth of a daughter, Angela, now 2, after his son, Justin, died at three months at the hospital on March 22, 1981, helped him and his wife, Jacqueline, to overcome their grief. Nevertheless, he said that Justin's death contributed to the failure of his marriage a year ago.

Adrian Hines, who declined to be quoted directly, noted that he does not object to bringing his son, Darren, in for kidney treatments to the Hospital for Sick Children. He added that he is upset at the way the hospital has handled the affair. He said he is unhappy with both the silence of hospital administrators on the cause of the deaths and their insistence that nothing could have gone wrong there. He insisted that the hospital should have acted to investigate the incidents well before the March death of his child.

Upset: Lawyer Morris Manning expressed the concerns of the parents he represents when he spoke against the appeal to allow naming of suspects last week. Said the lawyer: "The parents want the people or the institution responsible for the deaths brought to justice, civilly or criminally, and they feel too much information has been withheld and too much time has gone by while authorities have dealt with these issues in ways that have not served to answer their concerns or their questions." Added Dominic Lombardo: "The thing is to find out how to prevent it in the future. Some other nut out there could do the same thing. There must be a way of making sure it does not occur again."

—ROBERT BLOCK
in Toronto

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POLING/UPC

Supreme Court judges paying their last respects to Laskin. Trudeau will choose a successor to 'a great champion of fairness'

JUSTICE

Preparing the court for a crucial era

By Robert Miller

In his early years as Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau often used a phrase to sum up his philosophy of power. "To govern is to choose." Last week, following the death of 71-year-old Supreme Court Chief Justice Bora Laskin, Trudeau demonstrated that he has not altered his belief that leadership involves making difficult choices. At the same time, he made it clear that he does not see himself as a lame duck, just because he will leave office in less than three months. Trudeau did not hesitate to make the point by declaring that he will name a successor to Laskin, whom he eulogized in the House of Commons as "a great champion of fairness [dedicated] to the rule of law, civil liberties and social justice."

In addition to appointing a new chief of the Supreme Court of Canada, court observers expected Trudeau to fill the court vacancy created by Laskin's death. The Prime Minister would then retire with his appointees occupying seven of the nine high-court seats. In that way, Trudeau could leave his personal stamp on justice in Canada for many years, during which time Canadian laws—particularly those in the public-interest area—will likely undergo profound change.

The day after Laskin died of complications from pneumonia, Trudeau told reporters that the position of chief justice was too important to remain vacant until after the Liberal party chooses a new leader on June 16. Said Trudeau: "I cannot possibly leave it over. It has to be done." One reason the Supreme Court is on the brink of one of the busiest and most crucial eras in its history and is about to be inundated with cases arising from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As it deals with those cases, the court will effectively be making the laws under which several future generations of Canadians will live.

During Laskin's distinguished 10-year term as Canada's most senior judge, the court made a dramatic transition. Said Prof. Edward Ratushny of the University of Ottawa's law school: "It moved from being an adjudicator of private interest to a central player in coming to grips with the social and political issues confronting the country." The trend, which the Trudeau government and much of the legal profession supported, is expected to accelerate under the next chief justice.

Recent tradition has seen the position alternate between francophones and anglophones. And before Trudeau appointed Laskin on Dec. 27, 1973, seniority of service on the Supreme Court had been another determining factor. But Trudeau has broken ground several times in making major appointments. He made Jeanne Sauvé the first woman Speaker of the House of Commons and he designated her as the first woman Governor General. He named Judge Bertha Wilson, 60, as the first woman member of the Supreme Court. And he made Laskin the first Jewish chief justice. Many court observers expected the Prime Minister to ignore convention again, although few thought he would choose a chief justice from outside the court's current membership.

Dickson: the 'L.S.D.' trio



CANAPRESS

Many experts point to Judge Brian Dickson, 67, a native of Yorkton, Sask., as Laskin's most likely successor. Dickson practised corporate law in Winnipeg and rose through the Manitoba court system until Trudeau named him to the Supreme Court in 1973. Fellow lawyers regard Dickson as a brilliant jurist and, like Laskin, a humanist as well as an excellent writer of judgments. Because Dickson found himself in the minority on several key judgments with Laskin and retired justice Wishart Spence, the trio was known as "L.S.D." Dickson has persevered with his French studies to the point where he is now almost bilingual, an ability that has won him favor among the Quebec legal community.

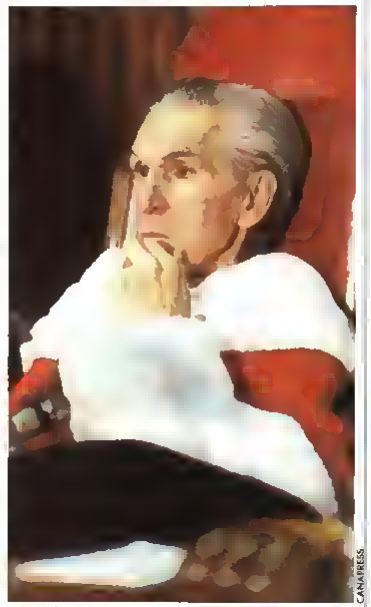
The most senior member of the court, Judge Roland Ritchie of Halifax, is an outsider. A 1959 appointee of former prime minister John Diefenbaker, he faces mandatory retirement when he reaches 75 on June 19, 1985. But if Trudeau decides to follow the francophone-anglophone tradition, one likely candidate would be Jean Beetz, 57, a former Rhodes Scholar and University of Montreal law professor. Beetz served as a constitutional adviser to Trudeau until 1973, when he became a member of the Quebec Court of Appeal. In 1974, Trudeau named Beetz to the Supreme Court. However, several lawyers close to the court say Beetz has been saying privately that he would not enjoy the heavy administrative work load that has become a part of the chief justice's job.

Another serious possibility is Judge Willard (Bud) Estey, 64, a former chief justice of Ontario. The chances of the other court members—Wilson, William McIntyre, Julien Chouinard and Antonio Lamer—are considered slight. Some court observers suggest, in referring to Wilson, that Trudeau might appoint a second woman, to fill the vacancy.

Most observers expect Trudeau to announce the appointments shortly before Easter and, in that case, a new chief justice and a new judge will be sworn in April 24, when the court is scheduled to begin a new session. Said Bernard Hofley, the court registrar: "The docket is a bit longer than usual. It is going to be a very busy time."

The legacy of Bora Laskin

His life was a multilevel love story, and throughout it Bora Laskin kept faith with his family, his country and his profession. They mourned his death last week, after a career of high distinction marred only by failing health during the last five years. Laskin was Canada's 14th chief justice, the first Jew ever to sit on the court, and he was universally regarded as a man of incisive intellect and deep compassion, particularly for minority groups and the disadvantaged of Canadian society. He was also a committed federalist, although he bridled at any suggestion that the Supreme Court of Canada was biased in favor of any government or group. He presided over the court for a decade and sat on it for 14 years, a period during which it evolved from an institution primarily concerned with settling private arguments into a body dealing with public issues.



CANAPRESS

Laskin: incisive intellect, deep compassion

The "Laskin court"—a phrase he disliked but one that gained wide usage during his tenure—tackled such thorny and legally murky questions as minority, language and native peoples' rights, abortion, police procedure and federal-provincial jurisdictional disputes. Frequently, when the judges divided along traditional-progressive lines, Laskin took the progressive approach, often as a minority dissenter. His death, at 71, four years before retirement age, came just as the court was beginning a new era of cases arising from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Jurists, lawyers and politicians last week agreed that the fact that the court and the country have been denied Laskin's contribution to the anticipated charter cases was a national tragedy.

Laskin was born in Fort William, Ont. (now Thunder Bay), in 1912. His parents, Max and Bluma, were Russian immigrants who struggled to educate their three sons. Bora acquired a BA, an MA and a law degree at the University of Toronto and then took a master's degree in law at Harvard. In 1938 he married Peggy Tannenbaum, of Campbellford, Ont., and they subsequently had two children. In 1940 Laskin began teaching at U of T. He accepted an appointment to the Ontario Court of Appeal in 1965. Five years later Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed him to the Supreme Court, where he quickly became known for the brilliance of his written judgments and his humanitarian principles. As chief justice, Laskin undertook to raise public awareness of the court and its function. He also tackled the growing administrative burden of the position.

Laskin maintained an intense pace but eventually grew noticeably tired. In 1978 he underwent a coronary bypass operation. It was successful, but the robustness that had characterized his youth—he was a talented baseball player and retained a lifelong interest in the game—did not return. Laskin returned to the court, however, and continued to work hard. Under his leadership in 1981 the court eventually helped break the federal-provincial impasse over the issue of patriating the Constitution. Ultimately, the politicians reached a compromise, and the Constitution was brought from Britain on April 17, 1982.

Just a few days before his death, Laskin was quietly named a Companion of the Order of Canada. His family declined the offer of a full-dress state funeral. His body lay in state in Ottawa for a day before it was transferred to Toronto for a private burial service at Holy Blossom Cemetery. His wife was too ill to make the trip, although she attended the lying in state in a wheelchair. Laskin was widely mourned and eloquently eulogized, but his own words, at the time of his 1970 appointment to the court, were perhaps the most fitting epitaph: "I have no constituency to serve except the realm of reason."

—R.M.



THE TORONTO STAR

Toronto police checking a juvenile's identification: no longer merely misguided adolescents

LAW

New laws for young offenders

After 22 years of cross-Canada consultations, federal-provincial disputes and repeated delays, the Young Offenders Act finally comes into law this week, with new and tougher provisions to deal with young people who commit crimes. The legislation, replacing the 1908 Juvenile Delinquents Act, applies to federal criminal offences. It creates a new system of "youth courts," injects new formality into courtroom procedures and grants rights such as guaranteed access to legal counsel. But in the end, Solicitor General Robert Kaplan proclaimed the legislation without waiting for the conclusion of federal-provincial financial negotiations. Not one of the provinces has signed the cost-sharing agreement. As a result, young offenders will encounter confusion as police, prosecutors, judges and other court officials scramble to implement and enforce the act. Nova Scotia family court Judge Timothy Daley, for one, predicted "utter chaos."

Most judges, lawyers and children's rights activists agree with the thrust of the new legislation, but many are concerned that it is full of contradictions. On the one hand, said Brian Ward, executive director of the Ottawa-based Canadian Council on Children and Youth, the new youth courts will no longer treat 12- to 17-year-olds who contravene federal laws as misguided adolescents in need of gentle discipline, but as young people who are responsible and accountable for their crimes. On the other hand, said Ontario family court Judge Peter Nasmith, a 17-year-old who committed murder previously could have received a life sentence, whereas now his maximum sentence would be only three years in some cases.

Other key reforms include:

Ages: In keeping with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, the act stipulates that young people up to the age of 18, in all parts of the country, are juveniles. Until now, all provinces except British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec and Newfoundland considered those under 16 to be juveniles. It also absolves children under 12 of criminal responsibility, unlike the old law, which applied to children as young as seven.

Sentences: Judges may not impose prison sentences longer than three years or fines of more than $1,000. Previously, sentences were often open-ended, with the result that some juveniles served longer sentences than adults for the same crime. For particularly serious crimes, such as murder and sexual assault, judges now will have more specific authority to transfer youths to the adult courts.

Alternative measures: For less serious offences, such as shoplifting or vandalism, juveniles can now avoid the court process altogether under a system known as "diversion." But first they must admit guilt and agree to conditions that include performing community work, attending counselling or compensating the victim.

Procedures: The act opens the doors of juvenile courts to the public, but it retains the existing ban on publication of the name of the accused. And, for the first time, young offenders will be guaranteed the right to bail in all provinces and the right to appeal a sentence.

Parliament actually passed the legislation in 1982, but provincial dissatisfaction with the federal government's cost-sharing proposals caused a two-year delay in its enactment. Original federal estimates placed the cost of the changes at $50 million. But the provinces now argue that the new detention facilities, extra police and Crown prosecutors that the legislation calls for will raise that bill to more than $250 million. In February, as well as cost sharing, Kaplan offered about $45 million for ongoing expenses, a sum that Ontario Social Services Minister Gordon Walker dismissed as "picayune."

Because of the financial uncertainties, Nova Scotia has not yet held training courses for its judges. In British Columbia there is no system for providing the medical or psychological assessment of offenders that courts can now demand, and the province has not yet enacted necessary legislation to deal with provincial offences that the federal act does not cover. Until those statutes are in place, judges will not know how to sentence juveniles caught stealing a car or committing other provincial offences. But for all the drawbacks, children's rights advocates are pleased to see the act. Said Ward: "I would not want to delay children's rights any longer." —ANN WALMSLEY *in Toronto*



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Shedding light on the minorities

A special parliamentary committee on visible minorities in Canada had barely presented its report to Parliament last week when its chief recommendation ran into opposition. Following a seven-month, cross-Canada study, the seven-member committee urged the federal government to use tax incentives, subsidies and, if necessary, legislation to force the private sector to hire nonwhites. In its report, *Equality Now*, the all-party committee said that present federal voluntary affirmative action programs in the work force had failed. It said that from 1979 to November, 1983, the federal government approached 1,130 companies, and only 49 agreed to voluntarily introduce affirmative action programs. But, despite the report's statistics, federal Multiculturalism Minister David Collenette said last week that he was still inclined "to continue in the voluntary route."

The minister also refused to make any promises on another major recommendation: that Japanese Canadians who were interned or had their property confiscated during the Second World War should receive both an apology and compensation from the Canadian government. Collenette said that the cabinet is discussing compensation and that the 44,000-member Japanese-Canadian community itself is divided on the issue.

Some of the committee's 80 recommendations need only minor adjustments to legislation or government practice. But others—like the recommendation for the establishment of a full ministry of multiculturalism instead of the minor subministry that now exists—would require a substantial investment of time and money. The report cautioned, however, that if the government does not take action to integrate Canada's estimated 1.8 million nonwhites into the mainstream of society, Canada faces a "potentially serious race relations problem."

Whether any of the committee's recommendations will survive the leap from the printed page to real life remains in doubt this week. Committee chairman Robert Daudlin, Liberal MP for Essex-Kent in Ontario, said that the current Liberal leadership contest and the upcoming election may spur the government to implement some of the committee's recommendations to woo ethnic voters. In urging the government to act last week, Daudlin warned, "There is a substantial amount of frustration out there."

—SUSAN RILEY *in Ottawa*



PUSKAR/AP

Williams (left) at a Braddock, Pa., steel plant splits in an international union

LABOR

A Canadian takes charge

A bitter contest for the presidency of the one-million-member United Steelworkers of America ended in some confusion last week, but with Canadian Lynn Williams the apparent victor by a comfortable margin. With unofficial results in from 85 per cent of the locals, Williams had almost 190,000 votes, compared to less than 110,000 for his challenger, Frank McKee. But the tough-talking McKee, who rose from the ranks as a Seattle mill hand to become union treasurer, will not concede until all the results are in at union headquarters in Pittsburgh, some time this week. Meanwhile, he asked the U.S. justice department to investigate alleged improprieties in the handling of sealed ballots in the union's Canadian districts. That investigation was unlikely to affect the outcome of the election. But the dispute was a fitting symbol of growing divisions which Williams must now address if he is to control the recession-battered international union.

There was never any doubt about Williams's support among Canadians, who make up 20 per cent of the union's membership. In the end, he gained more than 90 per cent of the votes from the 800 Canadian locals. But McKee complained that changes in procedure—which Williams said were necessary to save time—meant that Williams's supporters had distributed, and thereby "tainted," sealed ballots. The results from the U.S. locals were much closer, reflecting an attempt by McKee to convince American steelworkers that a Canadian president represented a grave threat to the union and to the future of the blighted U.S. steel industry.

Williams, 59, a career administrator, and McKee, 63, had worked closely on the union's conservative executive board since 1977. The board chose Williams as interim leader when president Lloyd McBride died last November. But McKee contended that the plight of the U.S. steel industry, in which layoffs and plant closings eliminated more than 300,000 jobs since 1980, raised a crucial issue for the international union: could American steelworkers trust a Canadian-born president to act in their best interests? McKee made that question the central issue of the campaign. Williams and his supporters retorted with charges of bigotry, prejudice and discrimination.

In the end Williams withstood the nationalist rhetoric in the United States and seemingly breezed to victory on the strength of the Canadian vote. He said the results represented "a triumph over negativism" and a victory for "the concept of international unionism." Williams predicted that his win could clear the way for a united attempt to rebuild the union membership and stave off further industry demands for concessions. But as McKee continued to wave the nationalist flag at week's end, that prediction seemed, at best, premature.

—ANN FINLAYSON *in Toronto*



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Ludlum at home: fear of the abuse of power and a loathing for fanatics are the underlying themes of the best sellers

PUBLISHING

Robert Ludlum and the realm of evil

By Susan Baxter and Mark Nichols

It was 4:30 in the morning, and the blue eyes of the man seated in the study of the 200-year-old Connecticut farmhouse were as imperturbable as the waters of the Atlantic that washed the shore a few hundred metres away. Lighting a Kool menthol cigarette, he began to write in pencil on a yellow, legal-size pad. Those were the first of about 2,000 words that he would produce that day, depicting the improbable world of his imagination—a realm of spectacular evil and monstrous conspiracies, of casual brutality and gory death. Like most novelists, he has his share of unkind critics who complain of implausible plots, leaden prose and, as a caustic reviewer once sneered, an absence of "redeeming literary values to balance the vulgar sensationalism."

But harsh critical words have not prevented Robert Ludlum, the onetime actor and theatrical producer who wrote his first novel at the age of 42, from becoming one of the most widely read and wealthiest authors in the world. Last week, to no one's surprise, his latest novel, *The Aquitaine Progression*, was at the top of *The New York Times* best-seller list.

"I'm just a storyteller," says Ludlum, a friendly but somewhat reserved 56-year-old with a self-deprecating manner. "I take my work seriously, but I don't take myself seriously." Most readers probably do not take Ludlum seriously either, but their appetite for his work is voracious: just the same. Since his first book, *The Scarlatti Inheritance*, was published 13 years ago, Ludlum's tales of dark and dastardly intrigue and heroic derring-do, with their now-familiar three-word titles—*The Osterman Weekend*, *The Rhinemann Exchange* and *The Parsifal Mosaic* are some of the others—have sold an average of about 5.5 million copies each worldwide for a total of 60 million copies in 23 languages.

Ludlum's awesome record of success means that he is one of the most popular living authors in the English language, outselling John le Carré (*The Honourable Schoolboy*, *The Little Drummer Girl*), the other giant presence in the trench coat-and-stiletto field, and vying with the stars of quite different mass-market genres, such as Stephen King (*Pet Sematary*), with his eerie blockbusters on the supernatural, and Judith Krantz (*Mistral's Daughter*), the reigning queen of sophisticated soap. As a thriller writer, Ludlum has also succeeded in making a distinctly American voice heard in a literary form that has experienced an explosive growth in popularity in recent years and has been largely dominated in the past by the British accents of le Carré, Len Deighton (*Berlin Game*), Frederick Forsyth (*No Comebacks*) and the late Ian Fleming, inventor of the dashing and enduring James Bond. Ludlum, says Linda Grey, his editor at the U.S. paperback publisher Bantam Books, has "invented a whole new kind of international thriller. It is top-notch writing with a superiority of plot, originality of concept and pacing that is not really categorizable."

Perhaps so, but Ludlum's novels are nevertheless conspicuously open to criticism on a variety of counts. Wordy and plodding, they lack the knowing tone and stylistic elegance that the master practitioners have brought to the thriller, while placing a much heavier strain on the reader's credulity. In Ludlum's 1978 novel, *The Holcroft Covenant*, the selected children of Hitler's Nazis have grown to maturity as genetically programmed "moles" who are trying to set up a Fourth Reich, while *The Matarese Circle* the following year posited a different kind of global conspiracy—one by multinational corporations. In *Aquitaine* a typical Ludlum story line unfolds when a young American lawyer becomes embroiled in a conspiracy by an international cabal of retired military men whose aim, of course, is to take over the world. As in most Ludlum novels, there is an echo of the Hitler era—in the person of a demented Nazi general—a string of gruesome murders and a harrowing, single-handed struggle by the protagonist against mind-boggling odds, with visits to a score of world capitals and assorted other scenic locations along the way.

At times the dialogue in Ludlum's work is as devoid of any intrinsic interest as any humdrum conversation in real workaday life, and his pronouncements to the reader can be both clumsy and obscure. "The ethics was questionable," he writes in *Aquitaine*, "but contrary to accepted belief, ethics was in three dimensions, if not four. The end did not justify the means, but justifiable means that brought about a fair and necessary conclusion were not to be dismissed." Yet, for all his imperfections, Ludlum manages—by pumping suspense into every twist and turn in his tangled plots and by demanding sympathy for well-meaning protagonists afflicted by outrageous adversity—to keep millions of readers frantically turning his pages. As a *Washington Post* reviewer wrote of Ludlum's 1980 *The Bourne Identity*: "It's a lousy book. So I stayed up until 3 a.m. to finish it."

An unlikely literary spellbinder, Ludlum had a long and successful career in the theatre before turning to full-time writing. Born in New York City, where his father was a moderately prosperous business executive, Ludlum first fell in love with the stage when he acted in a play at Connecticut's private Kent School. Then, at the age of 14, Robert ran away from school and won a part for himself under an assumed name in a New York production of Jerome Chodorov's 1941 love farce *Junior Miss*. His real ambition was to see action in the Second World War and, when the play went on the road to Detroit, Ludlum crossed the border into Canada and, in Toronto, tried to sign on under a false name with the Canadian air force. But the long arm of authority soon caught up with the runaway. "It was on York Street in Toronto, I think," recalls Ludlum. "I was filling out the papers for training as an aircraftsman when the sergeant-major came in and shouted, 'Ludlum.' I said, 'Yes, er, no.' And that was it."

Back in the United States, Ludlum eventually went back to school and, after serving with the U.S. Marine Corps in the South Pacific, he took an arts degree at Connecticut's Wesleyan University. While an undergraduate, Ludlum met and married an aspiring young actress named Mary Ryducha and for the next two decades they made their careers in the theatre. While his wife acted under the stage name of Mary Rydé, Ludlum performed in New England repertory theatres, won small parts in Broadway productions and made numerous appearances in the live television dramas of the 1950s, appearing on such shows as *Studio One*, *Kraft Television Theatre* and *Omnibus*. But Ludlum worried that as an actor he had too little control over his life and, he wryly recalls, "a lot of people kept saying I would make a hell of a producer. I got the message, got off the stage."

That turned out to be sound advice. Ludlum went on to produce more than 370 plays outside of New York, including the original production in New Jersey of Bill Manhoff's *The Owl and the Pussycat*, starring Mary Rydé and a young unknown named Alan Alda. "I should have known he would write spy stories from the way he negotiated contracts," says Alda today. "He had this trick of rattling papers into the phone and saying that he had found a way to cut you in for a percentage, which was fictitious. He was such a good actor I always fell for it." As a producer, Ludlum was also the moving force behind the founding of a playhouse in Paramus, N.J. But, by the late 1960s, he was increasingly unhappy with the financial pressures that dominated theatrical life. Besides, he had always wanted to write, and his wife warned him, "If you don't do it now, you will regret it for the rest of your life."

His first novel grew out of two photographs Ludlum saw in a magazine, taken during the period of economic collapse in Germany that followed the First World War. One photo, illustrating the hyperinflation that wracked the country, showed a shopper's wheelbarrow filled with nearly valueless currency, while the other was a group of jack-

Robert and Mary Ludlum: bullying and organizing her easygoing husband



booted precursors of the Nazi party. "I turned the pages back and forth," said Ludlum, "and wondered. If a wheelbarrow full of reichsmarks could not buy a loaf of bread, then where did they get the money for those boots?" Ludlum's answer, in *The Scarlatti Inheritance*, was that ruthless international financiers, including Americans, had helped to bankroll the Nazis. After several publishers had rejected it, Ludlum took the manuscript to Henry Morrison, a New York literary agent who still handles the author's books. Says Morrison: "It was really very easy to see the quality of that book. Bob's aim in life is to be an entertaining writer."

With his first best seller, Ludlum joined the top rank of thriller writers at a time when novels trafficking in espionage and apocalyptic plots—perhaps in response to the frightening realities of the nuclear age—were gaining rapidly in popularity. The recurring theme of his novels, says Ludlum, is "the abuse of power," and he once explained that "What I don't like in the world is largeness—large corporations, large governments. . . . I would say I have one true loathing—for fanatics of all persuasions, right or left." Washington, D.C. thriller writer James Grady, author of 1974's *Three Days of the Condor*, thinks "the reason that fiction involving intrigue is so popular is that it is easier to believe in unseen hands and conspiracies. Real events tend to be a little too large and a little too complex for most people." Said Tim Wynne-Jones, secretary of Crime Writers of Canada, who is also the author of a pair of thrillers (*Odd's End* and *The Knot*): "I think there is a tremendous fashion for paranoia thrillers, and Ludlum is the perfect example of this. There is the idea that it is everywhere, and it is going to get you. They are a very violent and simplistic reflection of the times."

If North Americans, other than Ludlum, have generally lagged behind the more successful British thriller writers, that is probably because the form was virtually born and nurtured in the United Kingdom. The early English classics—Erskine Childers's *The Riddle of the Sands* in 1900, John Buchan's *The Thirty-nine Steps* in 1915 and Somerset Maugham's 1928 *Ashenden, or the British Agent*—set the stage for Eric Ambler's invention, virtually single-handedly, of the plausible and literate modern thriller with the publication of *The Dark Frontier* in 1936. While a handful of American writers—including Robert Stone (*Dog Soldiers*, *A Flag for Sunrise*), Donald E. Westlake (*Kahawa*) and Ross Thomas (*Missionary Stew*)—have turned out well-crafted thrillers, British authors like le Carré, Deighton and a host of lesser lights (Ted Allebury, Gerald Seymour, Peter Driscoll and Alan Williams are among the best) still dominate the genre.

Canadians increasingly are trying their hands at thrillers. Vancouver writer Rohan O'Grady and journalist Shaun Herron took to the field in the 1960s, and Vancouver's Tom Ardies followed with a string of successful thrillers, including *This Suitcase is Going to Explode* and *Kosygin is Coming*, in the early 1970s. But 1979 was the year Canadian thriller writers arrived. There was William Deverell's well-received *Needles*, a tale of the international drug trade set in Vancouver, Peter Such's *Dolphin's Wake*, which dealt with Greek political intrigue in the 1960s, and David Gurr's *Trotka*, a moody novel in the le Carré style that sold well in the United States and Britain. Today, writers like Dennis Jones, a London, Ont., computer scientist whose *Rubicon One* sold well last year, are being promoted more aggressively in the U.S. market. If Canadians have yet to break into the higher echelons of the thriller field, the success of some of their compatriots in the related, but distinct, detective field augurs well for the future: last month Toronto mystery writer Eric Wright won Britain's prestigious John Creasey Memorial Award for his much praised *The Night the Gods Smiled*.



SOTHEBY'S/PARKE-BERNET

John le Carré: a giant presence

Meanwhile, Ludlum has convincingly demonstrated that just about anyone can write a thriller. Lacking any personal experience in espionage, although he admits he has "friends in the intelligence community," Ludlum reads books on contemporary history such as *The Conspiracy and Death of Lin Biao* and hunts for tips on the spy trade in works like David Kahn's *The Codebreakers*, one of the definitive works on cryptology. When Ludlum and his wife, Mary, are not travelling to search out new locations for his novels, they live quietly at home and entertain a circle of close friends (among them actors Jason Robards and, until he died last October, Pat O'Brien) in their spacious converted farmhouse, with its landscaped grounds and a tennis court. Mary, who, notes Henry Morrison, "has been an ongoing influence in Bob's life," acts as unofficial manager and creative consultant, gently bullying and organizing her easygoing husband.

Ludlum is devoted to her and to his three children. Michael, 30, is a university music teacher and Glynis, 21, is a student in Boston. Jonathan, 29, who plans to study law, is also following in his father's literary footsteps and is writing a thriller. Mary, notes the proud father, "says that he is going to shove me right off the lists." Actually, Ludlum's commanding position in the thriller field seems unlikely to be challenged in the immediate future, so long as the prolific storyteller continues to put pencil to paper. Nor does Ludlum worry much about writing a great novel. "If anyone had asked Charles Dickens," says Ludlum, "he would say, 'I write what I can.' I don't think great novels are set out to be that way. I think they happen." If literary greatness never happens to Robert Ludlum, he can at least console himself that he is helping millions of thriller addicts to make it through the night.

With Margaret Cannon in Toronto and Anne Nelson in New York.

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COMPUTERS

A tide of computerbabble

He not only went down, you know, his head crashed. He was all right until he began pushing things on the stack. Finally, he just became interrupt driven.

In computer manufacturing centres from California's Silicon Valley to Ontario's Kanata, outside Ottawa, computer designers regularly transfer high-tech terminology into everyday conversation. Post-McLuhan man does not have a nervous breakdown, he "head crashes." He does not get behind in his work, he "pushes things on the stack." Neither does he become overwhelmed, he becomes "interrupt driven." But as the computer boom pushes new slang onto the street, guardians of the English language are expressing increasing alarm about the linguistic cost of what they call "computerbabble."

Commented Richard Wanner, a professor of sociology at the University of Calgary: "What seems to be happening is that a subculture is forming. And like any such group, it sets itself off by using a language that is intelligible only to its members. Computer jargon becomes a symbol of status." Some phrases seem to be particularly designed to obscure meaning. In computerese, to call something "transparent" actually means that the observer cannot see it. A transparent man, therefore, is a very complex individual. And it is difficult for the lay person to associate "core dumping," a computer term for unloading a system's central memory, with getting something off one's chest.

Language critics charge that computer manufacturers, locked in a fiercely competitive marketplace, are the originators of the techno-slang. New complex computer systems demand new—and often inelegant—phrases to describe them. In recognition of the phenomenon, computer critics have coined the word "cybercrud" to characterize the kind of descriptive jargon that computer insiders use. Said David Humphreys, who teaches a computer and society course at Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute: "The PR goop is ultimately meaningless to most people. You should not have to speak martian to be part of the information age."

One of the most outspoken critics is John Barry, who until recently wrote the "illiteracy column" for *InfoWorld* magazine, a weekly computer publication published in Menlo Park in Silicon Valley. Said Barry: "Some terminology is useful. But taken to the extremes, it clutters conversation. People overstep usefulness and use it gratuitously."

Verbs such as "interface" and "access" have already spilled out of computer factories and into common usage. Purists fear that the growth in home computer sales will lead to an even greater debasement of the language. But many language experts are not concerned about the intrusion of cybercrud into everyday speech. For the past two years Michael Cummings, a professor of English at Toronto's York University, has used a minicomputer to investigate the syntax of Old English. Said Cummings: "What we are seeing is a repetition of a historical phenomenon that has always happened in language. In time we will find that the useful terminology will become part of our vocabulary, while the cute and useless jargon will die out."

—SHONA MCKAY *in Toronto*

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TECHNOLOGY

Monitoring the ice packs

The compact radar system of the twin-engine Cessna Conquest turboprop scanned the frigid Beaufort Sea in 80- to 160-foot swaths. As the plane flew at 33,000 feet, computerized equipment translated the readings into detailed images of moving ice floes. Within minutes the location of the menace was in the hands of the people who needed it—the crews of the drill ships whose operations are threatened by the Beaufort's shifting ice. Such precise, up-to-the-minute data has been available to Beaufort drilling operations for the first time this year, and now the system's developer, Intera Environmental Technologists of Calgary, is about to introduce it to the Hibernia region off Newfoundland.

Intera President Brian Bullock said that his company invested eight years and $8 million to develop a superior ice surveillance system to help petroleum companies explore Canada's frigid and inhospitable frontiers. Other surveillance systems have not been able to pinpoint floes smaller than about 300 feet across, but the Intera system's superior resolution can spot floes as small as 20 feet in diameter. With northern drilling costing thousands of dollars an hour, current information means money to drilling companies. With detailed ice data, the crew of a drilling ship knows more precisely how long it can stay in position before having to flee from threatening ice.

'A new ice monitoring system may help offshore drilling crews to know when they have to move to safer waters'

Dome Petroleum, the company that pioneered oil exploration in the icy Beaufort, concluded that Intera's STAR-1 (for sea-ice and terrain assessment radar) could produce the information it wanted. Under the terms of a three-year, $6-million contract, Intera set up the STAR-1 surveillance flights from Inuvik, N.W.T., this winter on a daily and sometimes twice-daily basis during drilling of a well named Kogyuk N-67. Said Dome's environmental co-ordinator, J.W. Steen: "It is a superb instrument, the best there is." But it is considerably more expensive than other systems, and it remained to be seen whether STAR-1's additional information justified the extra costs. In the environmentally sensitive Beaufort, added Steen, "maybe the Canadian people would feel more secure knowing we are using the best system." Each survey flight costs about $30,000, but, said Bullock, the STAR-1 "outperforms all radar systems available by 10 to 100 times."

The system has other possible applications, such as mapping terrain, oceanographic research, monitoring oil spills or guiding ship traffic. For now, Intera is concentrating on the drilling industry. Under a new contract with the federal Canadian Oil and Gas Lands Administration, the company began watching the movement of icebergs off the East Coast this week with flights from St. John's. But Bullock has his eye on a projected $300-million worldwide market in radar surveillance hardware in the next five years. Said Bullock: "Intera intends to make Canada the dominant country providing radar systems around the world."

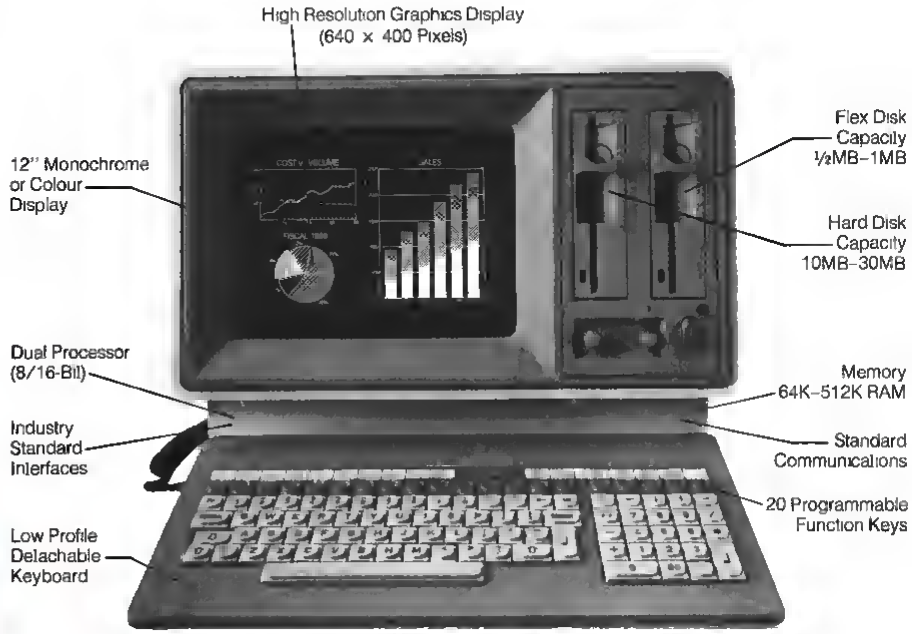
—GORDON LEGGE *in Calgary*

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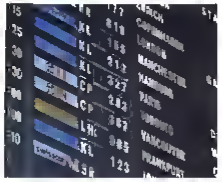
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BOOKS

Red China's evil empress

THE WHITE BONED DEMON: A BIOGRAPHY OF MADAME MAO ZEDONG
By Ross Terrill
(Macmillan of Canada, 446 pages, $29.50)

Chinese society discourages open individualism—especially in women. For that reason, the Chinese were completely unprepared for the self-centred and destructive career of Jiang Qing, the fourth wife of Mao Zedong and one of the chief organizers of the Cultural Revolution. At the height of her power in the 1960s and 1970s, Jiang and her colleagues in the Gang of Four sent millions of their radical supporters—the youthful Red Guard—into the streets and countryside to harass and, in thousands of cases, kill people they suspected of ideological impurity.

The full story of Jiang's rise and fall is now available to Westerners in *The White Boned Demon*, a lively and richly anecdotal biography by U.S. Chinese affairs expert Ross Terrill. Terrill has unearthed a wealth of sources ranging from secret Chinese government documents to Jiang's former lovers. Jiang, born in 1914, was shaped by early poverty into a tough, ambitious girl determined to escape the degradation that her prostitute mother had to endure. Terrill emphasizes how, in drama school, Jiang identified strongly with Nora, the iconoclastic heroine of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Indeed, Terrill makes a Nora-like struggle for freedom the mainspring of Jiang's character. Yet it is clear from Terrill's own evidence that he has presented a romantic simplification of Jiang's struggle. In fact, she was a deeply insecure woman who turned an inability to love into a ruthless striving for power.

Stardom in such stage and screen melodramas as *Blood on Wolf Mountain* and *Old Bachelor Wang* did not wholly satisfy Jiang. In 1937, at the age of 23, she met Mao Zedong, 44, then struggling against Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces. Within two years she had displaced his former wife, He Zizhen, and married him, accompanying Mao on the Long March to mastery of all China. By the 1950s, however, Mao had tired of her and pursued numerous affairs with pretty women while Jiang, ailing and depressed, was reduced to scheming against Mao's children.

In the early 1960s Jiang's fortunes once again began to change. Mao's Great Leap Forward had foundered, leaving him with many enemies in the Communist party. He turned to Jiang as a loyal ally, trusting her with increasingly powerful roles in his Cultural Revolution. That movement, which was designed to recoup Mao's political fortunes, was an attack on bureaucratic, right-wing China. Terrill concentrates so intensely on Jiang's role in the revolution that he sometimes gives the impression that she was running it. That is misleading: Jiang was only one of a radical coterie that included, among others, the powerful head of the army, Lin Biao. But Terrill is probably correct in saying that, without her influence on Mao, that tragic episode would not have been called the *Cultural* Revolution. Jiang took the arts as her special province and waged a vindictive and tasteless campaign against any play, film or dance that she deemed



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"unrevolutionary" Propelled by a desire for personal vengeance, she forced four intellectuals who she felt had mistreated her to wear dunce caps and ride through the streets past crowds of fervent Red Guards.

At their height, Jiang's egotism and vengefulness took her into the realm of pure evil. Even Terrill is forced to back off his usually sympathetic stance. But, in describing her trial in 1980, he is once again in her thrall. Unlike the other accused leaders of the Cultural Revolution, Jiang did not contritely confess her crimes. Instead, she shrieked to her bewildered judges that she had maintained her loyalty to Mao to the end. By refusing to play her role in a trial whose outcome was never in doubt, Jiang, Terrill claims, "held fast to her moral sovereignty as an individual." This claims far too much and reveals Terrill's folly in trying to make an actress an example of American-style individualism. Jiang, who is still in jail for her crimes, was a cruel and pitiless woman. Her courtroom behavior may have pointed to the great falsehoods inherent in the Chinese system of government. But Jiang herself contributed too much to those falsehoods to stand as an example against them. The real message of *The White Boned Demon* is that contemporary China, for all its great accomplishments, cannot guarantee the security of its citizens against the wilful and capricious malice of people in high places.

—JOHN BEMROSE

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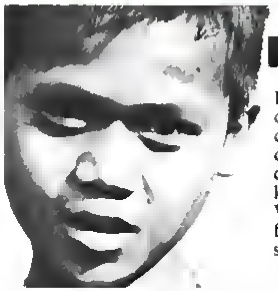
Fiction

1 **The Aquitaine Progression,** *Ludlum (3)*
2 **Pet Sematary,** *King (1)*
3 **Poland,** *Michener (2)*
4 **The Name of the Rose,** *Eco (4)*
5 **The Wicked Day,** *Stewart (5)*
6 **Bluebeard's Egg,** *Atwood (6)*
7 **Berlin Game,** *Deighton (7)*
8 **The Danger,** *Francis (8)*
9 **Smart Women,** *Blume (10)*
10 **Lord of the Dance,** *Greeley*

Nonfiction

1 **In Search of Excellence,** *Peters and Waterman Jr. (1)*
2 **The Game,** *Dryden (2)*
3 **Putting the One Minute Manager to Work,** *Blanchard and Lorber*
4 **Intrepid's Last Case,** *Stevenson (3)*
5 **The Money Spinners,** *McQueen (4)*
6 **You Can't Print That!,** *Lynch (5)*
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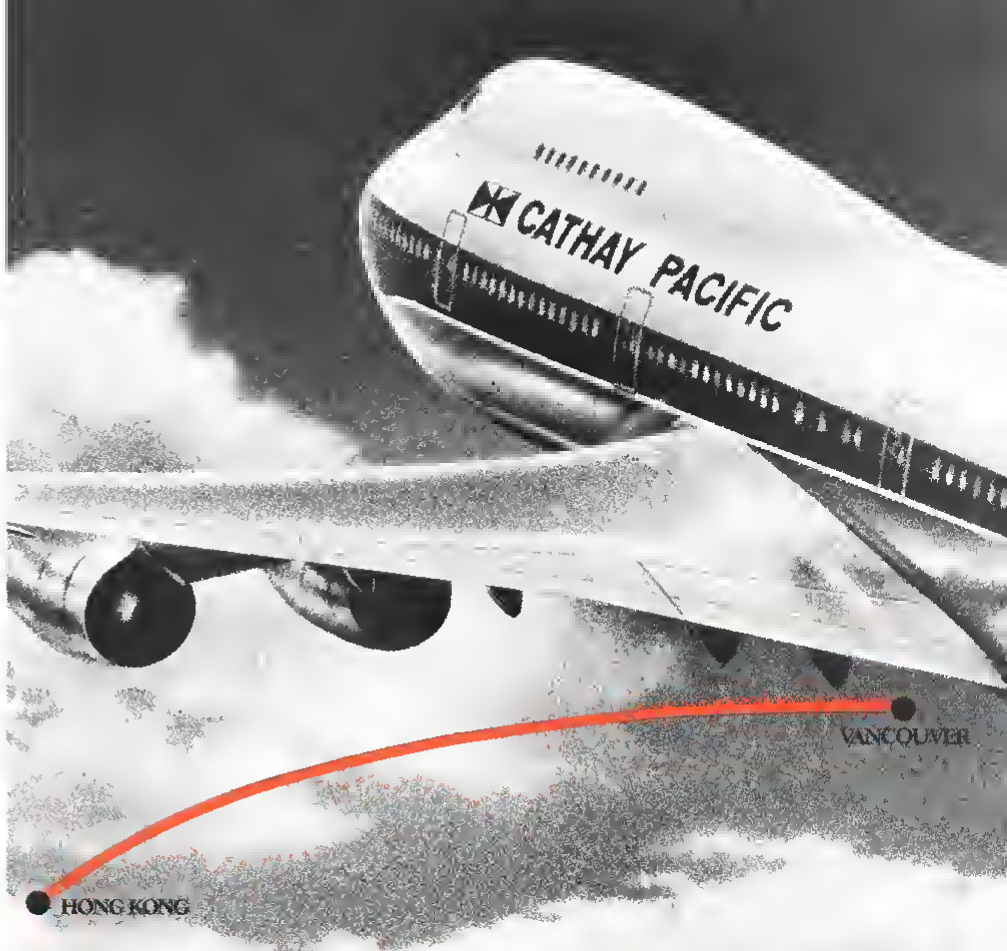
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MC-03-HA-SITS-N

A chameleon comic adapts to success

By Val Ross

It was another late night at the end of a 14-hour working day. The cast of *The Duck Factory*, NBC's new comedy series, was exhausted. Tempers at Los Angeles Studio City Sound Stage 8 neared the breaking point. As executive producer Allan Burns was about to send everyone home, he was surprised to hear the voice of the usually gentlemanly actor Jimmy Stewart cursing bitterly. By the time Burns realized that he was in fact listening to an impression by the show's 22-year-old Canadian star, Jim Carrey, a babble of voices had chimed into the cavernous gloom trying to duplicate the impeccable imitation of the young comic from Jackson's Point, Ont. Said Burns: "Carrey kept us loose and laughing." *The Duck Factory*, finally ready for its premiere next week, may or may not win the audience that NBC, third- and last-ranked commercial U.S. network, so desperately needs. But some of Hollywood's sharpest talents are banking on Carrey—and his multitude of faces and voices—to keep people laughing for years to come.



Carrey (seated) and The Duck Factory *cast: fun-house mirror reflections*

For the moment, network executives have high hopes that the adventures of Skip Tarkenton (Carrey), a wide-eyed newcomer to a dilapidated Hollywood animation studio, will enchant viewers with the same ingenuous charm that Mary Tyler Moore displayed in the 1970s. To re-create that sort of magic, MTM Productions, responsible for *Mary Tyler Moore*, *Hill Street Blues* and *Lou Grant*, has tapped the most respected talent in the business. Burns made his reputation producing *Mary* and *Lou Grant*; director Gene Reynolds is a veteran of *M*A*S*H*, and Jay Tarses, who plays Skip's cartoon scriptwriter colleague at the Duck Factory, was executive producer of *The Bob Newhart Show* and *Buffalo Bill*. MTM has spared no expense in putting the new show together. At a cost of about $600,000 an episode, Burns is giving *The Duck Factory* a visual sophistication by complementing its already richly eccentric cast with costly animation graphics showing the Dippy Duck cartoons which the factory's characters labor to produce. But most of all, NBC Entertainment's president, Brandon Tartikoff, believes that Carrey himself could be the key to the show's success. When he first saw Carrey's act at the Los Angeles Comedy Store—an act that the *Los Angeles Times* had called "impressionism as art"—Tartikoff turned to Burns and said, "This is the kid we have been looking for for years."

Comedy club audiences in Canada have long been aware of the marvels that Carrey can work with his toothsome, fresh-faced good looks. He can make his lanky frame go limp like a marionette suddenly out of string or twitch his face into a likeness of Elvis Presley with his upper lip vibrating as frenetically as his hips. "The mirror is my friend," Carrey explained. "I feel happy when I do this"—and a grave Leonid Brezhnev impression suddenly masked his face. Unlike impressionists who merely copy their subjects, Carrey catapults his victims into banal or unlikely situations. His Popeye croaks uncharacteristically sophisticated songs from *A Chorus Line* (*Kiss Today Goodbye*); he performs Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. squabbling over their pizza order. Perfectly capturing actor Bruce Dern's staring, psychotic intensity, Carrey's "Dern" does a commercial for a mental health foundation: "This year one in 10 Americans will suffer some form of mental illness. With your help and support, we can get those other nine people."

Carrey's comic gifts are firmly entrenched in the dominant pattern of Canadian comedy. The country with the perennial identity crisis is best known for such comics as Rich Little and the cast of *SCTV*, who win laughs by lampooning other people's identities. Carrey wanted to be a comic impressionist for as long as he can remember. "I loved to entertain," he said. "I hated to be hated." Whenever his schoolmates or teachers asked, he would perform John Wayne imitations in the classroom. At home he cheered his ailing mother with imitations of a praying mantis. His recurring nightmare, he confided, was "using bad language in my act, so the audience got disappointed with me and said, 'Aw, Jim.'"

After he dropped out of school in Grade 10 his father submitted his name to Yuk Yuk's, the Toronto comedy club that launched the careers of such stars as Rick Moranis and Howie Mandel. At 19 Carrey had become To-



ronto's hottest young comic and had collected enough money to head for New York. There, comedian and club owner Rodney Dangerfield saw him perform and hired him as an opening act for one of his tours. As news of Carrey's irresistible humor spread, he won jobs opening shows for such rock stars as Sheena Easton and Linda Ronstadt. Now, if not already a household name, Carrey is well on his way to becoming one, with guest spots on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show* and profiles in *People* and *TV Guide*. Currently, his agent is the Hollywood firm of Rollins and Joffe, which handles Woody Allen and Robin Williams. And still, said his *Duck Factory* friend Jay Tarses, "He is a regular guy, and if my teenage kids come by and beg him to do his David Bowie, he'll do it."

But Carrey's most unusual gift may be the affable common sense which he has apparently maintained on his youthful sprint to the top. His private life is almost perversely normal: he has moved his parents to Los Angeles and currently lives with them. He neither drinks nor smokes, and parks his unassuming Dodge Colt in the studio lot beside a fleet of Mercedes. Aware of the toll his volatile profession can exact, he says that his aim in life is "to get through showbiz unscathed."

But no true comic escapes without scars, and Carrey has earned many of his at the hands of fellow comics. With a shudder Carrey recalled the emcee's voice intoning "*Borrrring*" on his first appearance at Yuk Yuk's. Although he subsequently won rave reviews at that club, its owner, Mark Breslin, himself an admirer of comedian Lenny Bruce, never agreed. Commented Breslin: "I prefer comedy with a message and an edge. Carrey is a great craftsman, but to me impressions are a party trick."

Ironically, while some cynics dismiss Carrey's upbeat, slapstick brand of clowning—"I pattern myself after Dick Van Dyke," Carrey admitted—his new TV show could fail because it is too offbeat. In one scene, which simultaneously pokes fun at network timidity, audience prudery and the beleaguered media, Skip returns from oral surgery to confront a group of angry parents bent on boycotting *The Dippy Duck Show*. As the frozen-mouthed Skip tries to convince them that his show is not violent or risqué, he presents the image of a drooling maniac. *The Dippy Duck Show*'s problems could parallel those of *The Duck Factory*. Producer Burns commented: "TV, which has always been a crap shoot, is getting tougher. Sophisticated audiences are being pulled away by cable and cassette. A show like *Lou Grant* couldn't make it today."



Carrey: drooling maniac

Carrey is fatalistic about *The Duck Factory*'s future—and is certain to continue entertaining people no matter what happens. While he would like to do more acting, it is doubtful that he will ever abandon the special talent he has for reflecting other people in a fun-house mirror of his own creation. When he gets an impression right—when he realizes that he is nibbling a sandwich with the squirrelly, flashing-eyed cunning of a Jack Nicholson—he says he can feel the hairs on his neck prickle in recognition. The ability to do something so well is indeed impressionism as art. Whether or not *The Duck Factory* flies, Carrey's career seems destined to soar.

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In search of the answers

THEATRE

St. Urbain's hustler rides again

By Mark Czarnecki

For the past month a highly disciplined army of show business professionals has laid siege to Edmonton's opulent Citadel Theatre. Last week, signalling an increase in the tempo of operations, the theatre took the unusual step of hosting a press conference in its lobby to promote its latest and largest production. While novelist Mordecai Richler and Montreal impresario Sam Gesser held forth, 29 singers and dancers rehearsed backstage for this week's opening of *Duddy*, Richler's new musical based on his best-selling novel, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*. With a promising newcomer (Lonny Price) as Duddy, a 15-piece orchestra and a budget pushing $1 million, *Duddy* represents the biggest one-shot gamble in the history of Canadian theatre.

The musical, which traces Duddy's ambitious climb from the Jewish ghetto of Montreal's St. Urbain Street to the affluent slopes of Westmount, will feature 19 songs by a legendary rock 'n' roll team, lyricist Jerry Leiber and composer Mike Stoller. The American duo are the authors of more than 200 hits, from Elvis Presley's *Jailhouse Rock* to Peggy Lee's *Is That All There Is?* They hope to ensure that Richler's gritty portrait of the engaging hustler whose ruthless pursuit of real estate disillusions his loving French-Canadian girlfriend, Yvette (Marlane O'Brien), remains as abrasive a story on stage. In one number, *On Your Toes*, Duddy's idol, a crippled underworld boss known as the Boy Wonder, ends up dancing on his crutches.

Certainly, ambitions for *Duddy* the stage production are as great as those of its hero. After one month at the Citadel, the show will tour nine of the largest theatres across Canada. But *Duddy*'s coproducers—Gesser and his partner, Douglas Cohen, in conjunction with the Citadel under executive producer Joe Shoctor—are aiming the 2½-hour musical directly at Broadway. Undaunted by the dismal record of Canadian productions in New York, the producers are confident that *Duddy* will take Broadway by storm and pioneer a new era in Canadian theatre. Said Gesser: "If *Duddy* is a success, it will prompt foreign producers to see Canada as a country with something to export."



Price (left), O'Brien: cripples dancing and a flow of sardonic one-liners

Theatre producers from Sir Peter Hall of Britain's National Theatre to a New York producer Richler calls "an offensive animal" had nibbled at the rights to *Duddy* for years. But Gesser, a longtime acquaintance of Richler who also grew up in a Montreal Jewish ghetto, won the author's confidence and pursued the project for six tenacious years. At first, prospects were gloomy. Ottawa's National Arts Centre and Toronto's CentreStage Company both professed great interest but ultimately rejected the idea. Then, in 1982, Shoctor, the Edmonton lawyer who founded the successful Citadel, immediately embraced the project. "The other regionals saw *Duddy* as an invasion of their territory," said Gesser, who geared the project for Broadway from the start. "They would rather burn the sets after six weeks than see a show tour." Eighteen months ago everything fell into place for Gesser after a chance meeting at Montreal's Mirabel airport with his friend, director and choreographer Brian Macdonald. Gesser was delighted to discover that Macdonald was interested in joining the project. "Brian became the linchpin," said Richler. "He imposed some discipline, and we stopped floundering."

Macdonald, internationally recognized for his production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, realized that the project's risks were immense. Like the character himself, *Duddy*'s creators had no qualms about venturing into what was, for them, virtually unknown territory. Although Gesser has promoted and toured shows, he has never produced theatre before. Richler has written film scripts—including the acclaimed *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, starring Richard Dreyfuss—but he has not tackled a play, despite his superlative ear for dialogue. As for Leiber and Stoller, the one musical they wrote was never produced. But the talent is impressive, especially under Macdonald's direction.

Once before an audience, the show's heaviest burden will fall on 25-year-old New York actor Price. A tiny, wiry fireball, he is Duddy incarnate. Price has won accolades for his recent performance as Harold in Athol Fugard's *Master Harold . . . and the Boys*, a hit on Broadway, and for his singing in the Stephen Sondheim musical *Merrily We Roll Along*. Still, Duddy is his first major dancing role, and Macdonald's demanding choreography is pushing him

to the limit. Price is onstage 90 per cent of the time and sings seven numbers, but he feels strongly motivated by awe of Richler. "I want to please him most," said Price. "It is his vision, and I want to give it back to him."

Along with the rest of the ebullient cast, Price sports a *Duddy* T-shirt with a logo designed by Montreal cartoonist Terry Mosher, better known as Aislin: the elongated tail of the "y" forms a staircase reflecting Duddy's ambition and the characteristic walk-ups of St. Urbain Street. Building a musical around one dominant image with little attention to plot is common on Broadway today. But *Duddy* is more a throwback to the 1950s, when such musicals as *Guys and Dolls* and *West Side Story* wove together music and narrative. In *Duddy* the use of scores of back-projected slides will further heighten the drama by evoking the feel of the late 1940s, as the action shifts from the neighborhood deli to a Laurentian resort to Westmount.

Everyone involved in the production, from Richler on down, embraces the libretto's darker aspects. The novel's ending is bittersweet, but Richler hints that the musical's ending might be "even more severe." Dark or not, in Macdonald's inventive hands *Duddy* is bound to be an eye-opening, controversial experience. Said Macdonald: "The story includes a cripple, an epileptic and a lot of prejudice. Mordecai really deals in myth—it's a director's dream."

The irony of such a distinctive portrait of Montreal ghetto life opening on the Prairies is not lost on Shoctor. He is even considering including a Yiddish glossary in the program for the Edmonton audiences. But he is quick to point out that "there are just as many non-Jewish Duddies out there. It is a universal story." Simply producing *Duddy*, with its abundant North American talent, is a personal triumph for Shoctor. For years he has been struggling to mount world-class entertainment for export abroad, with mixed success. Now, in a unique partnership between a nonprofit theatre and private entrepreneurs, that ambition may be realized.

As for Richler, an intensely private individual, his first venture into the "group sport" of theatre has unexpectedly moved him. After one rehearsal Richler told the assembled cast how proud and grateful he was that they were treating his material with respect. Still, his sardonic one-liners never stop. Asked if he was exploiting his novel for all it was worth, Richler replied, "I am waiting for the ballet and opera. It would also make a nice line in men's sweaters." If the enthusiasm for *Duddy* T-shirts is any indication, those sweaters are not far behind. ✪



Darricks (left), Williams: a bizarre rhapsody with squirts of Windex behind the ears

FILMS

The greening of a Red

MOSCOW ON THE HUDSON
Directed by Paul Mazursky

Moscow on the Hudson is a true oddity. It ranges from a paean to the American way of life to a touching drama as it tells the story of Vladimir Ivanoff (Robin Williams), a Soviet circus musician who defects to the United States while shopping in Bloomingdale's. Director Paul Mazursky (*Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice*) has made warm, wise movies in his time, but in *Moscow* he seems not to have made up his mind about what kind of movie he wanted to make. He probably wanted to mix laughter with sentiment about what it means to be an American citizen. Still, guffaws and flag-waving make extremely strange companions.

Williams plays Vladimir without resorting to his usual manic and cuddly style, but that does not help the film's credibility problem. Because of the casual, flippant tone, the Moscow scenes of Vladimir's eccentric family and of long queues in the streets for toilet paper are difficult to take seriously. And the two KGB agents who chaperone the circus during its New York stay are as harmless as mustachioed silent-movie villains. Still, Mazursky asks the audience to feel apprehension for Vladimir's fate once he decides to defect.

During the comically choreographed defection, lucky Vladimir acquires a girlfriend and a buddy as well as his freedom: Lucia (Maria Conchita Alonso), one of the store's salesgirls, is about to become a citizen herself, while Lionel (Cleavant Derricks), a security guard, takes Vladimir into the bosom of his family immediately. But Mazursky wills rather than eases those characters into Vladimir's new life.

The film is much more successful when it concentrates only on Vladimir, whose desire to assimilate is so strong that his desperation becomes the comic motor that makes *Moscow on the Hudson* run. Like Mazursky's other movies, *Moscow* has its share of hilarity: in one scene, a Soviet woman at the Bloomingdale's perfume counter squirts Windex behind her ears. It also has its perceptive moments, among them Vladimir's sudden ambivalence about his new life in the United States after thugs mug him in his apartment building. Seen through the eyes of the Soviet circus members, New York takes on a bizarre, almost rhapsodic quality with its breakdancers, Hasidic Jews and bag ladies. But the film suffers from its maker's damaging desire to be nice and from his whitewash of the characters, which robs them of depth. In the end, wit and warmth cannot rescue the movie from being an aimless, unfocused reverie. —LAWRENCE O'TOOLE

MEDIA

Two titans prepare to wed

From Anne Murray to the McGarrigle sisters, Canadian musicians have habitually relied on a small number of multinational music corporations to bring their sounds to Canada and the world. Indeed, only six foreign-owned recording and distributing companies last year accounted for more than 80 per cent of Canada's $300-million record and tape sales. Later this month proceedings in a U.S. district court in Los Angeles may even further reduce the vehicles for Canadian musicians. On April 13 the recording division of Warner Communications Inc. (which owns WEA Records in Canada) and PolyGram Records (with a subsidiary in Canada) will contest the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) legal complaint designed to prevent them from launching a joint venture which is, in effect, a merger. If the record companies are successful, the Warner/PolyGram union will become the largest recording company in the Western world.

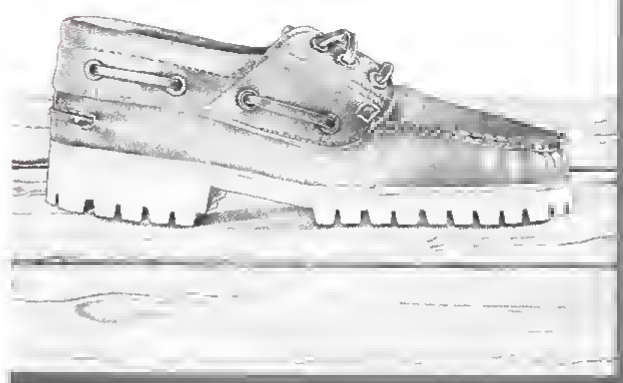
Although the prospect has raised significant government opposition in the United States, in Ottawa the Foreign Investment Review Agency and the federal cabinet approved the merger of the companies' Canadian interests last December. But some members of the Canadian recording industry view that decision as premature. Said Gerry Young, co-owner of Toronto-based Current Records and former promotion director for PolyGram's central region: "The entire direction of this merger is coming from the United States. It would create a huge company up here, and we do not seem too worried about it."

In terms of dollars and market control, the stakes involved are formidable. The merger would give the combined company made up of Warner, currently the second-largest U.S. recording company, and PolyGram, ranked sixth, more than one-quarter of the $3.5-billion U.S. business alone. As well, PolyGram has built up an enormous recording distribution network in Europe and the Middle East. That potential market domination prompted the FTC to ask for a temporary restraining order last month.

The FTC protest stated that the merger of the record companies would concentrate 26 per cent of the U.S. market in the new joint venture, preventing "the entry of new competitors into record distribution." The merger could also provoke a chain reaction in the industry that would be difficult to control. Walter Yetnikoff, president of the CBS Records group, has already hinted that CBS, the largest single recording company in the United States, might take over one of the smaller multinationals if U.S. or European governments failed to stop the deal.

In Canada the results of the merger would be even more dramatic. WEA Canada already controls between 20 and 22 per cent of the market and PolyGram between 15 and 17 per cent. Although neither of the Canadian branch plants has indicated that it would lay off staff or release musicians under contract, a streamlining of the companies' operations could make those actions inevitable. Warned Current's Young: "It will not be long before the companies realize that what they need is not two rosters but one good one. Then you will see the bodies start to fall."

For the moment, Canadian performers can only await the outcome of the court action in California. But for young musicians without a recording contract it would mean only one thing—one less place to sign on the dotted line. —PAUL MCGRATH, *with Peter Hall in New York.*



COLUMN

Musings on a New Canada



By Don McGillivray

Senator Jack Austin is an engaging rascal. He demonstrated his chutzpah anew by choosing the weekend of April 1 as the date to try to transform Canadair Ltd. from an albatross to a phoenix. So, on or about April Fools' Day, an asset-laden company called "New Canadair" arose, reborn from the ruins of its debt-ridden parent. Forget about the company that last year announced the biggest loss in Canada's corporate history. Forget the outfit that gulped down $750 million of "equity" money from the taxpayers without pausing for breath. Forget about the builder of executive jets that can never sell enough to repay the $1.35 billion in government-backed loans that piled up while it was trying to make and sell them. All that's past. Now we have the new, slim, trim, virtually debt-free company—New Canadair.

New Canadair does not resemble the legendary phoenix in one respect. It leaves behind not the ashes of its predecessor but a corporate entity, "Old Canadair," with all the debts and none of the assets. But the old legend may work in one way. The first job of the original phoenix was to fashion an egg out of the ashes of its parent and carry it to the priests of the Egyptian temple of the sun at Heliopolis where it was preserved forever. In the Canadair case, the debt of Old Canadair will be paid from money borrowed by the federal government. It will then become part of the national debt, to be preserved forever by the priests of the department of finance. The taxpayers will only have to supply preservative in the form of interest costs.

Whether the snake-oil salesman of Austin's Canada Development Investment Corp. can persuade companies to buy 15 executive toys in Canada each year is a question for the future. But I think the senator is onto something. His magic division of a doomed company into a bright new corporation on the brink of profit and a dirty old corporation with a millstone of debt is a technique that deserves wider use.

Whoever emerges from this year's political brouhaha should apply it to the whole country. We could have a "New Canada" and an "Old Canada." Old Canada, like Old Canadair, would be left with the debt and anything else we would like to shuck off. Its productivity would be rotten. Its strike record would be one of the worst in the world. It would be in perpetual recession. It would get Halifax when the fog closes in, Montreal when a bone-chilling wind is blowing up the St. Lawrence, Ottawa in the freezing rain.

New Canada would get all the good stuff. Vancouver on a clear day, Winnipeg when the spring runoff is tinkling through the streets, Regina after a June rain when the breeze carries the smell of new growth from a million acres of wheat, Ottawa in tulip time.

I can imagine the Prime Minister of New Canada presiding over his nation in the sunny splendor of his capital. A delegation arrives to protest, say, the bludgeoning of seal pups. "You've got the wrong office," the PM would say. "You're looking for the Prime Minister of Old Canada. That's where they're still killing those cute little fellas. In New Canada, we've banned the hunt."

'The New Canada could have all the wacky and weird things that have made it different from any other land'

Searchers would eventually find the capital of Old Canada, a dank town in the vicinity of Ottawa. And there they would find a Scrooge of a Prime Minister, stained with red ink, spending his time entering ever-higher numbers for his country's enormous debt.

A few of the mechanical details remain to be worked out. But this is a good time to think about what we would like in a New Canada. The new Prime Minister may not be able to pull off the Austin trick in all its beautiful simplicity. But there are choices to be made.

I would like to see New Canada take over all the wacky and weird things about this country that have made it different from any other. The reason-above-passion gang has been busy homogenizing us for the past sixth of a century and some of the changes can't be undone. We can't go back, for example, to being a nation that had to ask the parliament of another country to amend our Constitution. It didn't make any sense to keep our Constitution in London. That killed it in the end. But while it lasted it was a wonderful fact to relate to visitors.

The New Canada would still have the absentee monarchy, one of the most useful head-of-state institutions in the world. The Queen does not interfere in our quarrels; she hardly knows about them, and she is too far away to offer advice. She does not cost much. Some may mutter about the cost of royal visits. But that is peanuts compared to the cost of maintaining somebody in regal dignity for the whole year.

We would also keep Queen Victoria's birthday. It definitely deserves a place in New Canada. Then, when strangers, especially Americans, ask us who is honored by our May holiday, we can continue to tell them that it is not, as they may suppose, for the founder of our country, that old John A. Macdonald. Nor is it for a famous leader such as Abraham Lincoln. It isn't even for the birthday of our present Queen. It is the birthday of a woman who has been dead 83 years and who never set foot in this country.

The Crowsnest Pass rates are another example. They weren't nearly as damaging to the economy as alleged. An old fixed charge, like an old tax, becomes fair as people adjust to it. And it was almost worth the cost to have a freight rate fixed *forever* at half a cent a ton-mile. It is probably too late to reverse the swing to metric, too. But measuring things by the distance from some dead king's nose to his fingertips has the same fey quality.

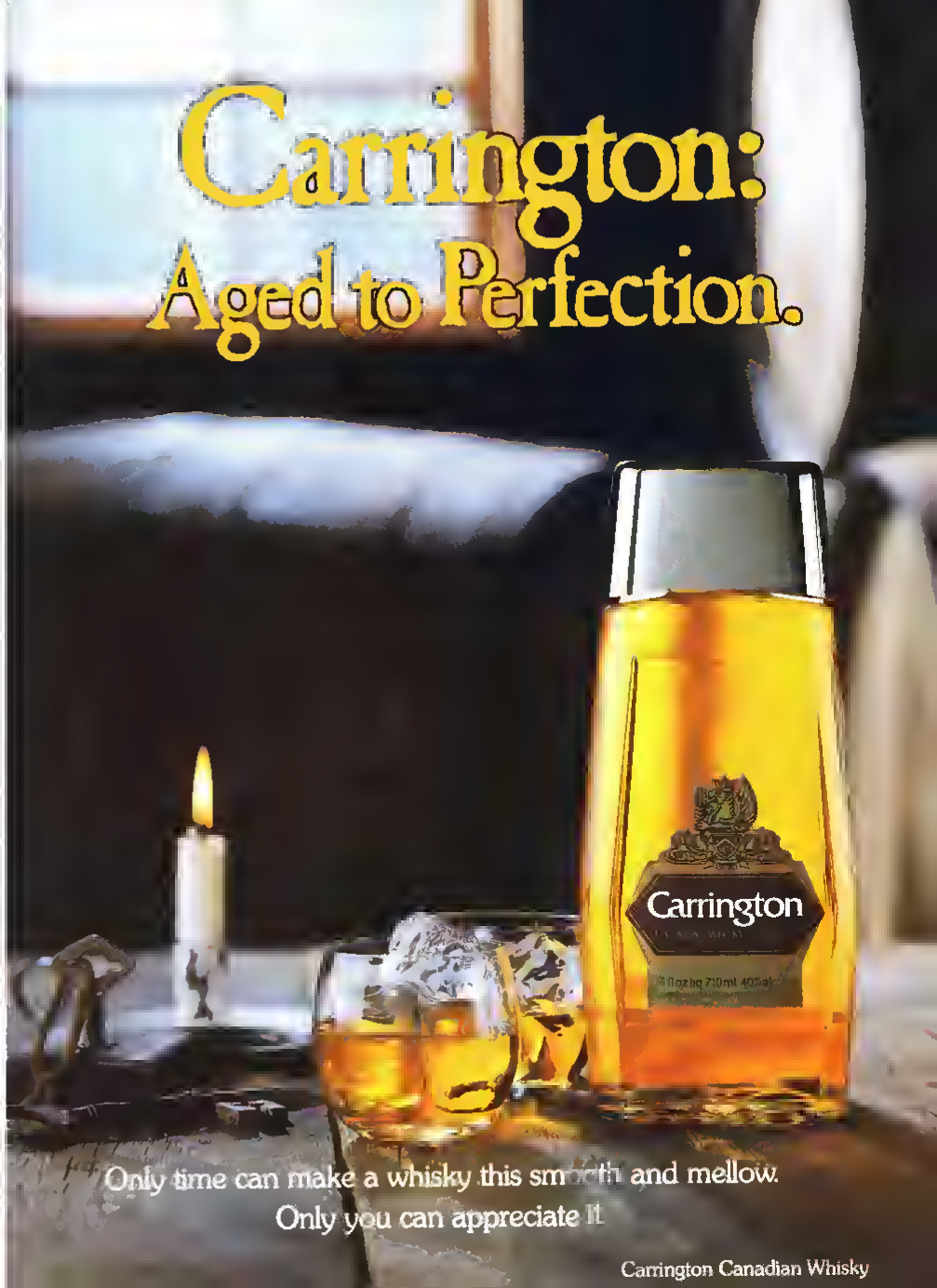
We should not, in other words, be trying to make ourselves as much like other countries as we can. We should be rejoicing in our dissimilarity and inventing new, perhaps crazily Canadian, ways to do things.

That is why I would include, in the New Canada, the whole Jekyll-and-Hyde structure of the New Canadair and Old Canadair. The money is gone, lost forever. But to have two companies, both called Canadair—one full of wrinkles and debt and the other full of youth and promise—is marvellously Canadian. The Crow rate is dead and the British North America Act cannot be returned to Britain.

But in the future we will be able to amuse ourselves and astonish visitors with tales of Senator Austin's audacity and his hilarious scheme for making a corporate loser into a winner by cutting off the good parts and forming them into a new entity.

Allan Fotheringham is on vacation.

Don McGillivray is national economics editor for Southam News.





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